

# Syntax

## some syntactically pleasing headlines:

Miners Refuse To Work After Death

Enraged Cow Injured Farmer With Axe

Squad Helps Dog Bite Victim

Two Sisters Reunited After 18 Years In Checkout Counter

British Left Waffles On Falkland Islands

Lansing Residents Can Drop Off Trees

Ban On Soliciting Dead In Trotwood

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

I will tickle the child with the feather

I will tickle the child with the feather

IP--> NP I VP

NP--> (Det) (Adj) N (PP)

VP--> V (NP) (PP)

PP--> P (NP)

N I V Det N

I will tickle the child

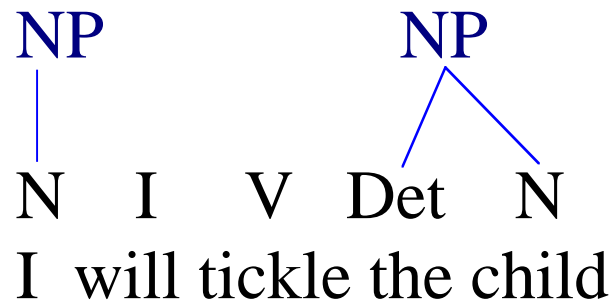
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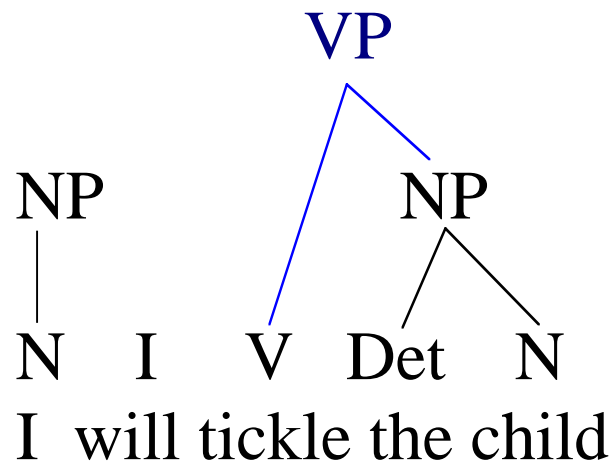
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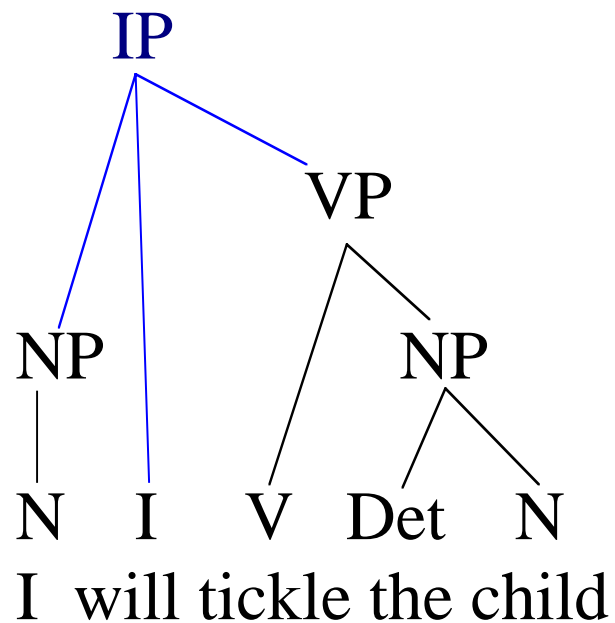
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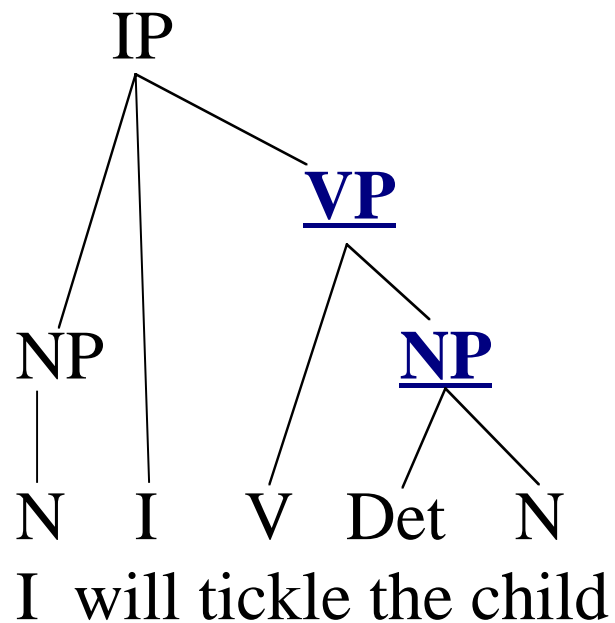
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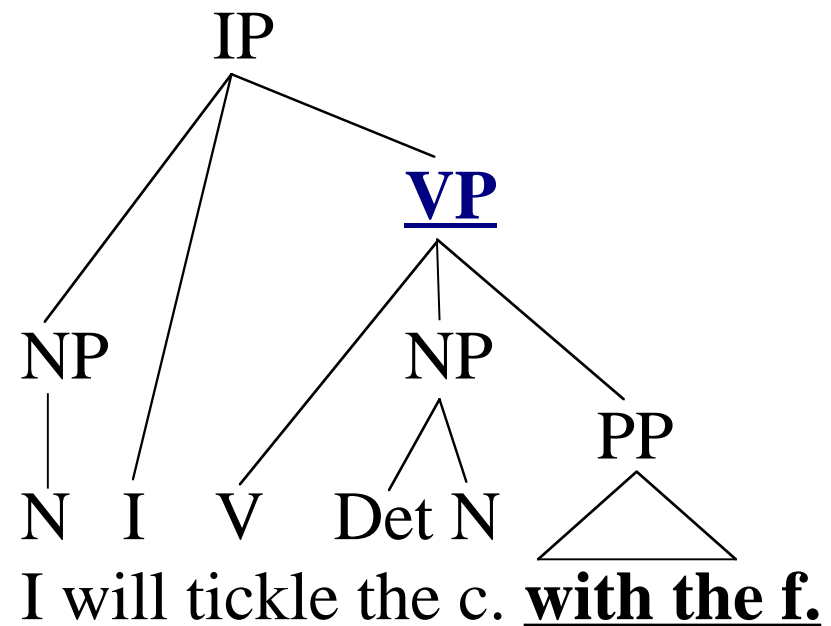
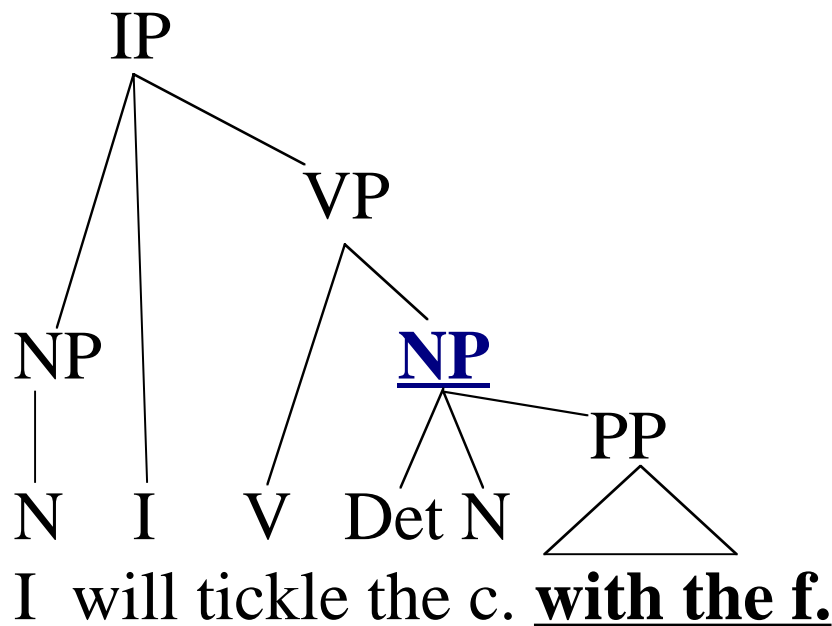
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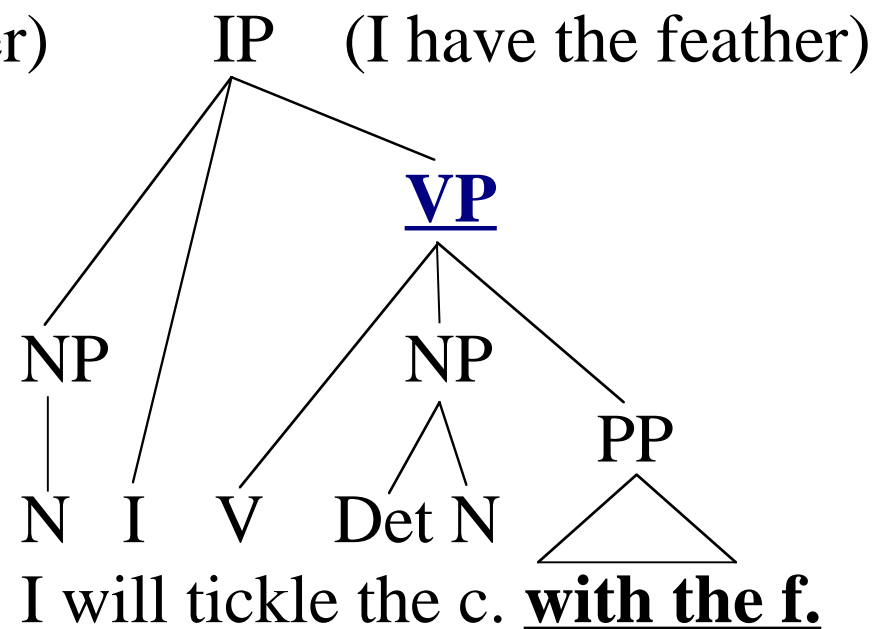
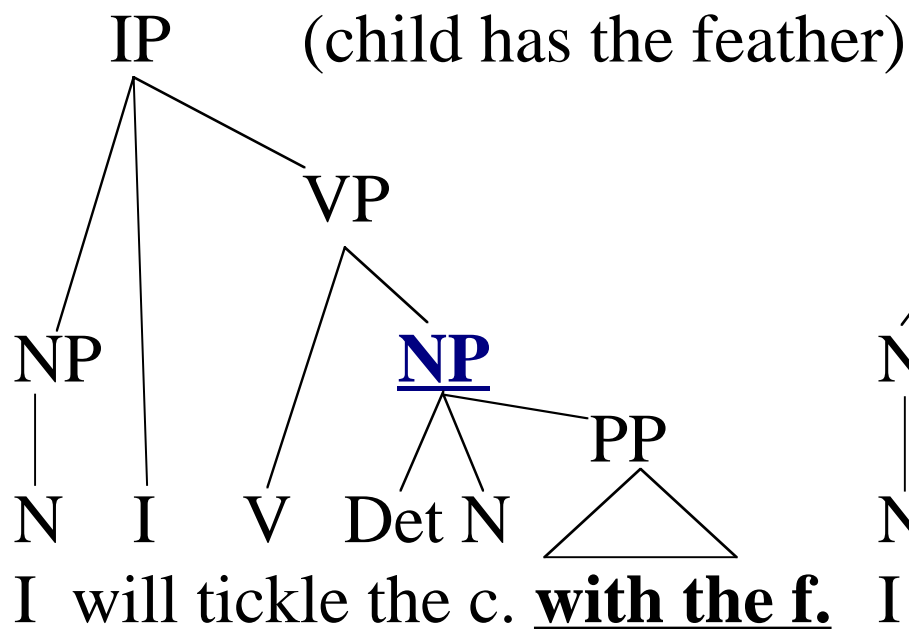
I will tickle the child with the feather

IP--> NP I VP

NP--> (Det) (Adj) N (PP)

VP--> V (NP) (PP)

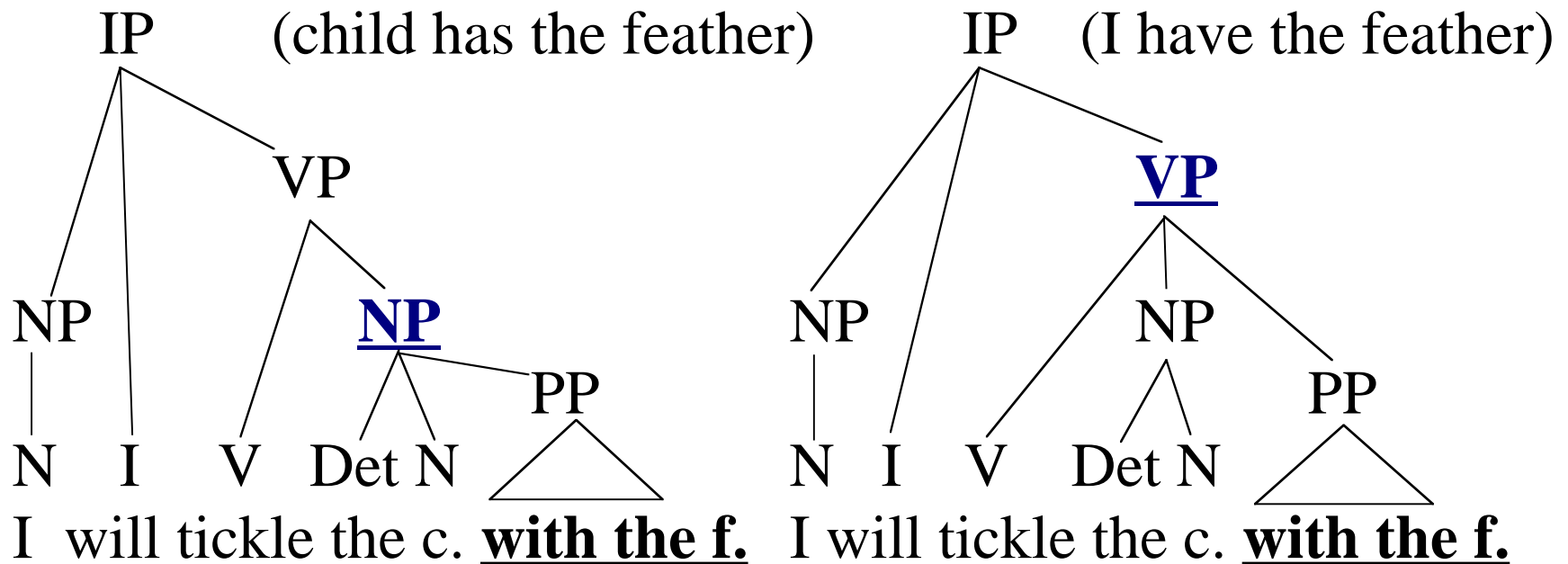
PP--> P (NP)



I will tickle the child with the feather

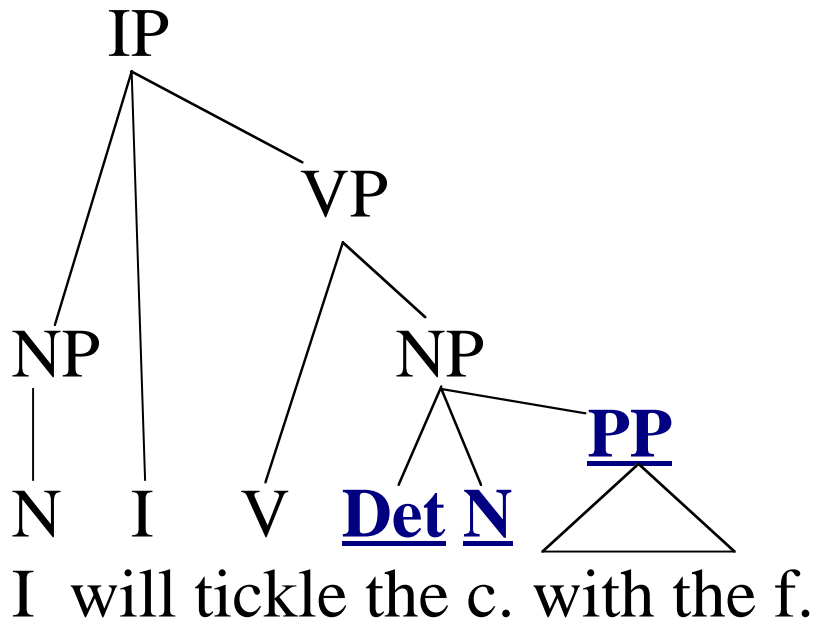
the child with the feather, I will tickle

the child, I will tickle with the feather

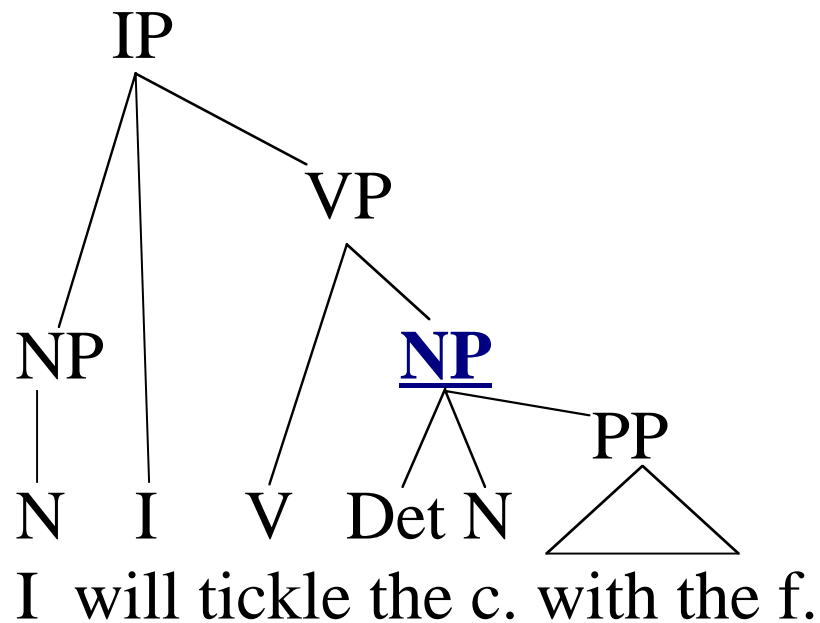


## terminology break:

- Det, N, and PP are sisters

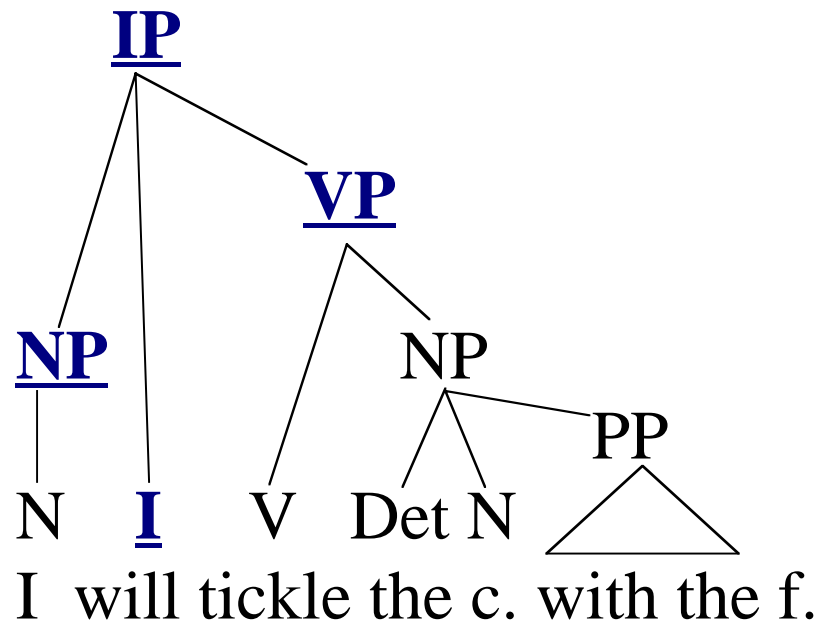


## terminology break:



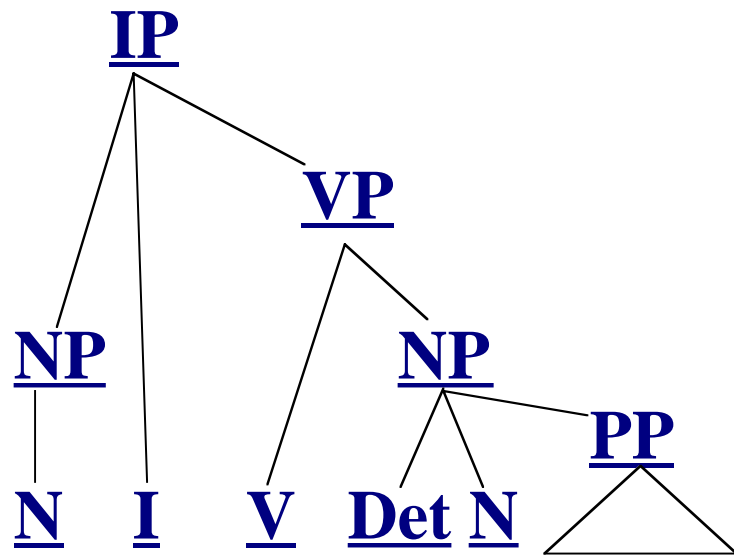
- Det, N, and PP are **sisters**
- NP is the **mother** of Det, N, and PP

## terminology break:



- Det, N, and PP are **sisters**
- NP is the **mother** of Det, N, and PP
- IP **immediately dominates** NP, I, and VP

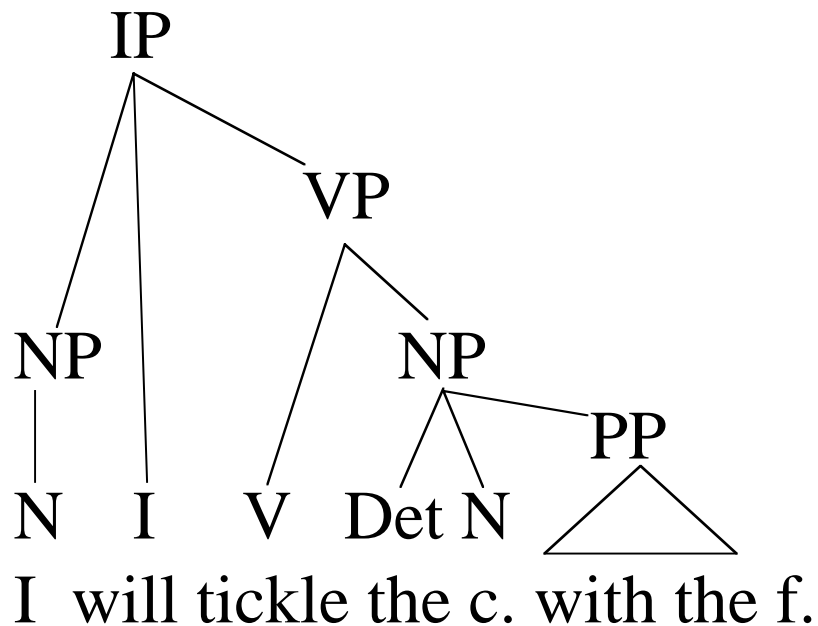
## terminology break:



I will tickle the c. with the f.

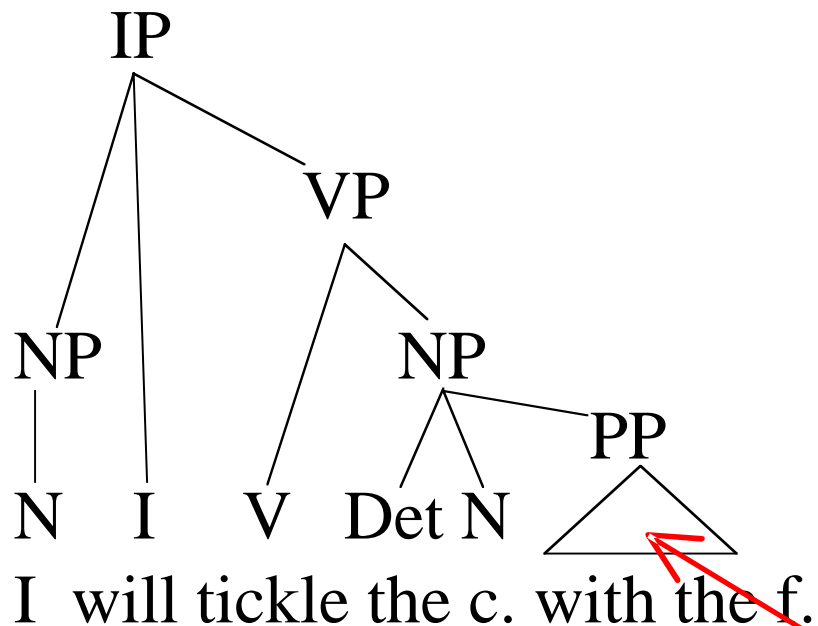
- Det, N, and PP are **sisters**
- NP is the **mother** of Det, N, and PP
- IP **immediately dominates** NP, I, and VP
- IP **dominates** NP, I, VP, NP, Det, N.....

## terminology break:



- Det, N, and PP are **sisters**
- NP is the **mother** of Det, N, and PP
- IP **immediately dominates** NP, I, and VP
- IP **dominates** NP, I, VP, NP, Det, N.....
- $\alpha$  is a **constituent** if all and only the words in  $\alpha$  are dominated by some node.

## terminology break:



- Det, N, and PP are **sisters**
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- $\alpha$  is a **constituent** if all and only the words in  $\alpha$  are dominated by some node.
- **triangle**



# splitting the atom further...X' levels

Mary's picture

## X' levels

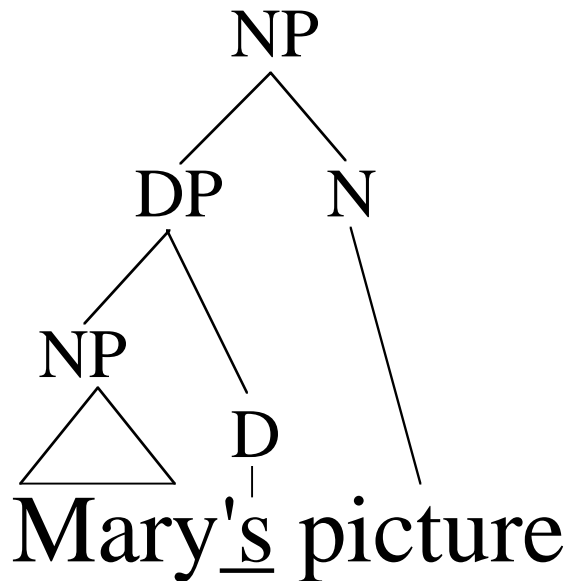
Mary's picture  
the picture  
a picture

\*the Mary's picture  
\*Mary's the picture  
\*a Mary's picture...

## X' levels

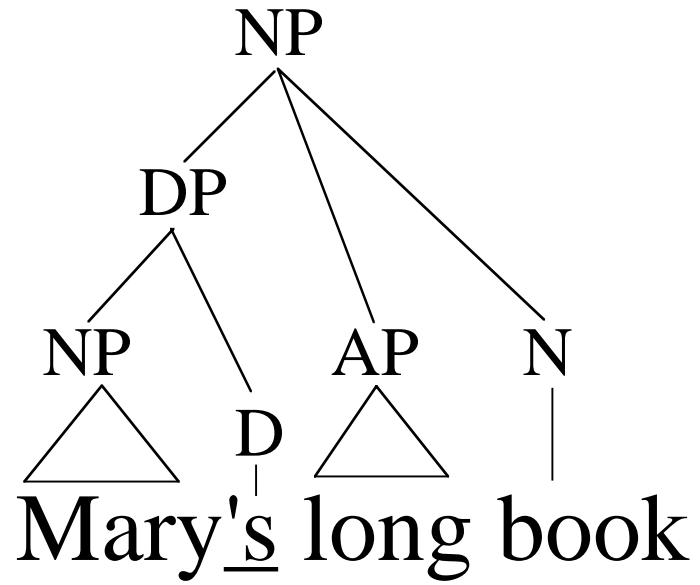
Mary's picture  
the picture  
a picture

\*the Mary's picture  
\*Mary's the picture  
\*a Mary's picture...

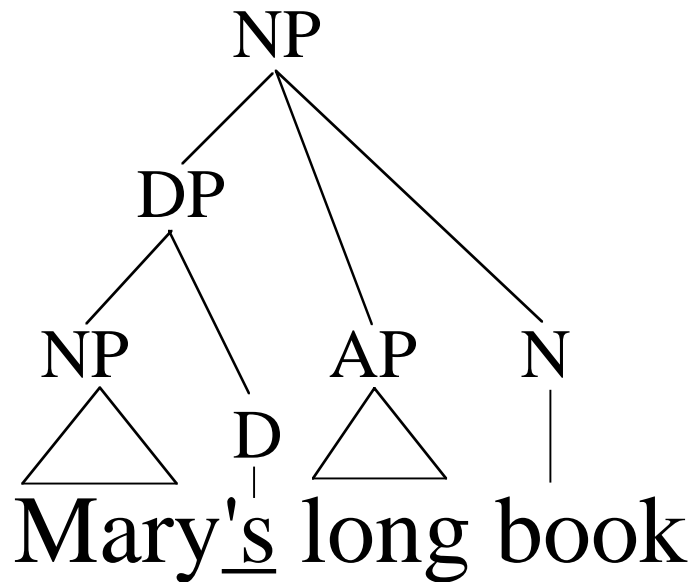


(why does 's require an NP?)

# X' levels



## X' levels



## coordination

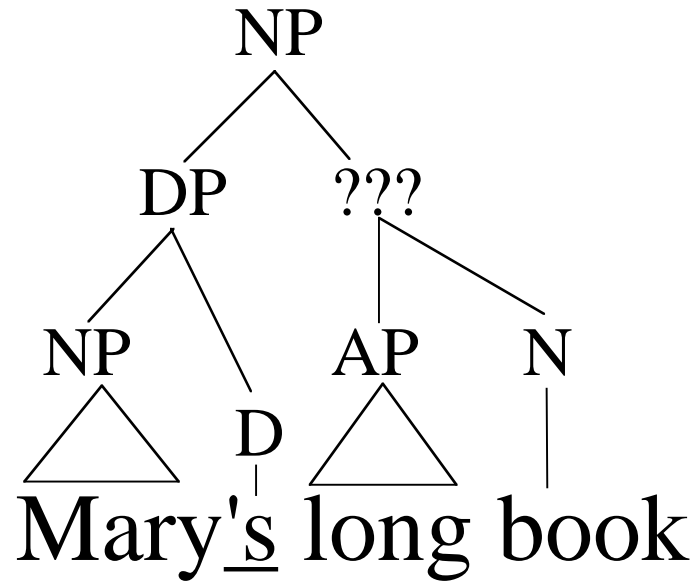
I liked Mary's [long book] and [short essays]

## ellipsis

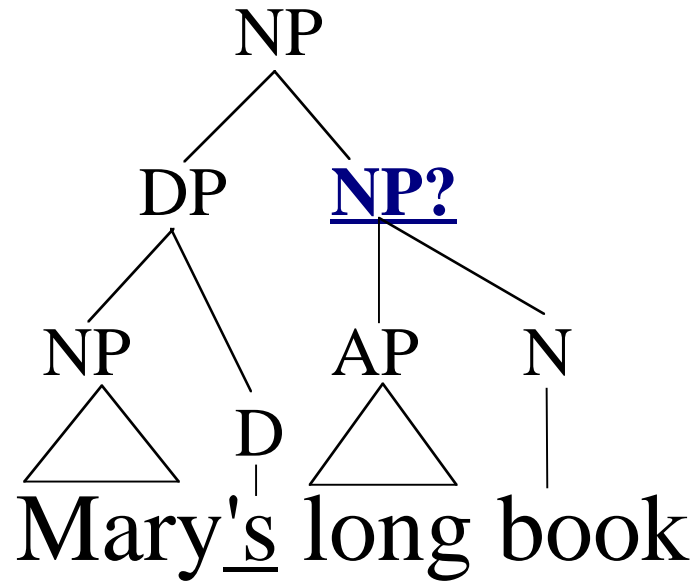
I liked Mary's [long book] but hated John's [].

\*I liked Mary's long book but hated [] sonata.

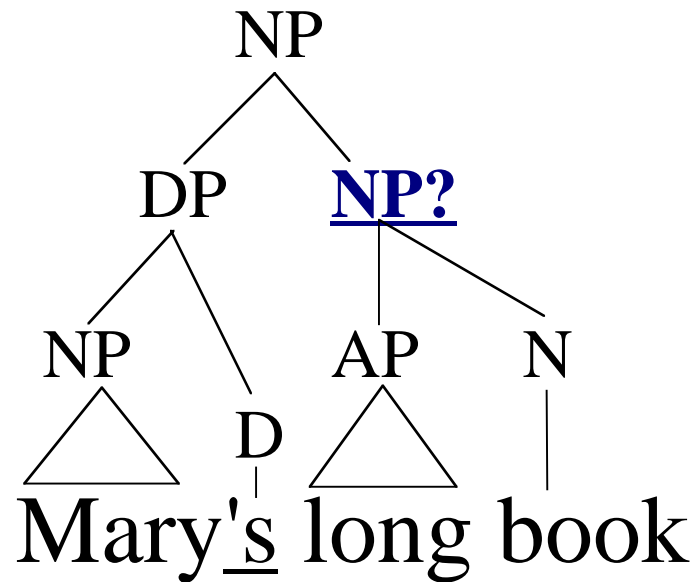
# X' levels



# X' levels



## X' levels

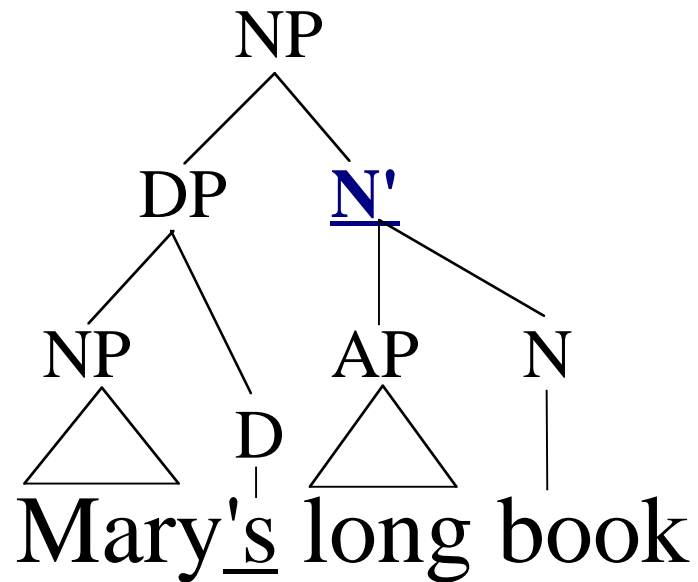


No: if  $NP \rightarrow DP\ NP$ , then:

\*Mary's Bob's (...) picture



# X' levels



NP-->(DP) N'

N'--> (AP) N (PP)

**X' levels**: not just for NP

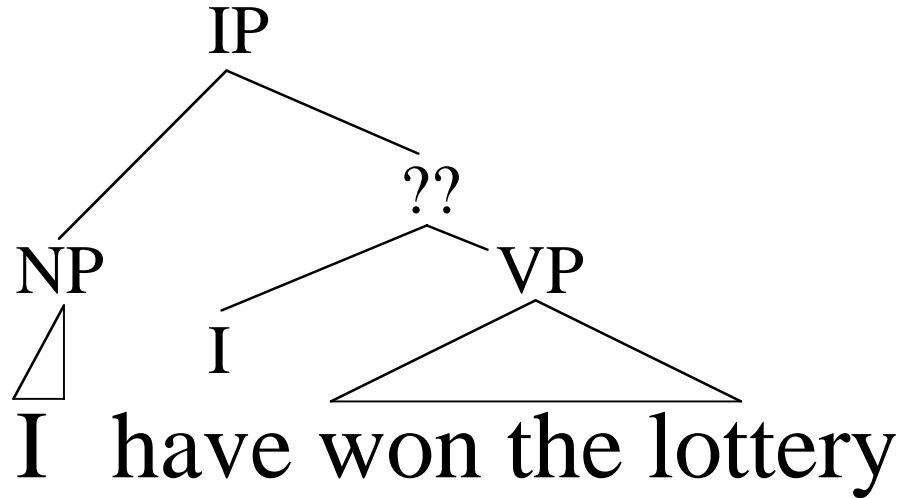
I [have won the lottery]

I [will never work again]

-->I [have won the lottery] and  
[will never work again]

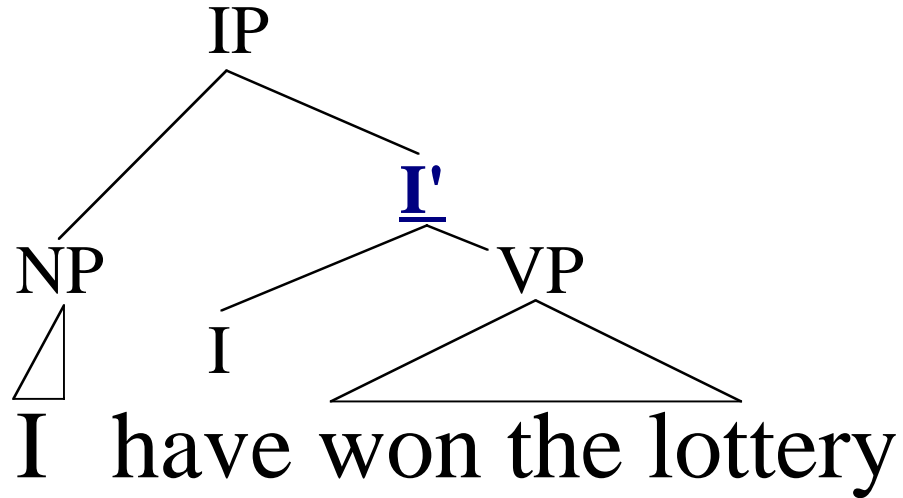
## X' levels

-->I [have won the lottery] and  
[will never work again]



## X' levels

-->I [have won the lottery] and  
[will never work again]



## X' levels

NP --> (DP) N'

N' --> (AP) N (PP)

IP --> NP I'

I' --> I VP

## X' levels

NP-->(DP) N'

N'--> (AP) N (PP)

IP--> NP I'

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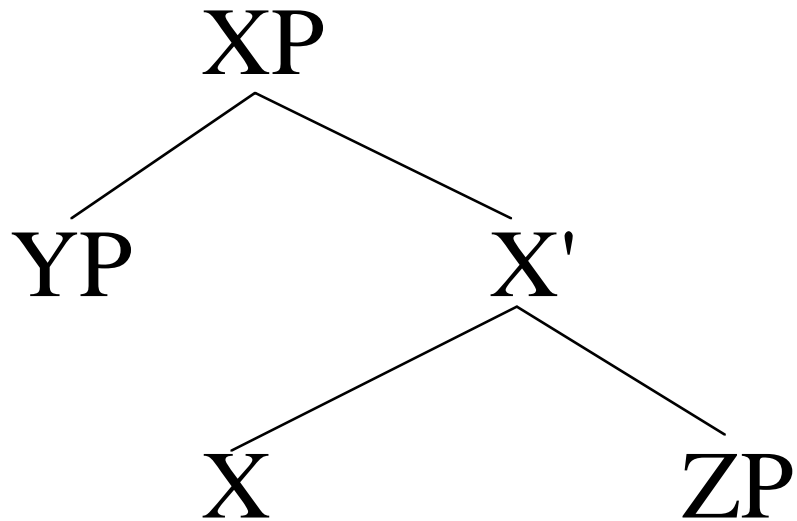
**XP--> (YP) X'**

**X'--> (WP) X (ZP)**

## X-bar schema

**$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$**

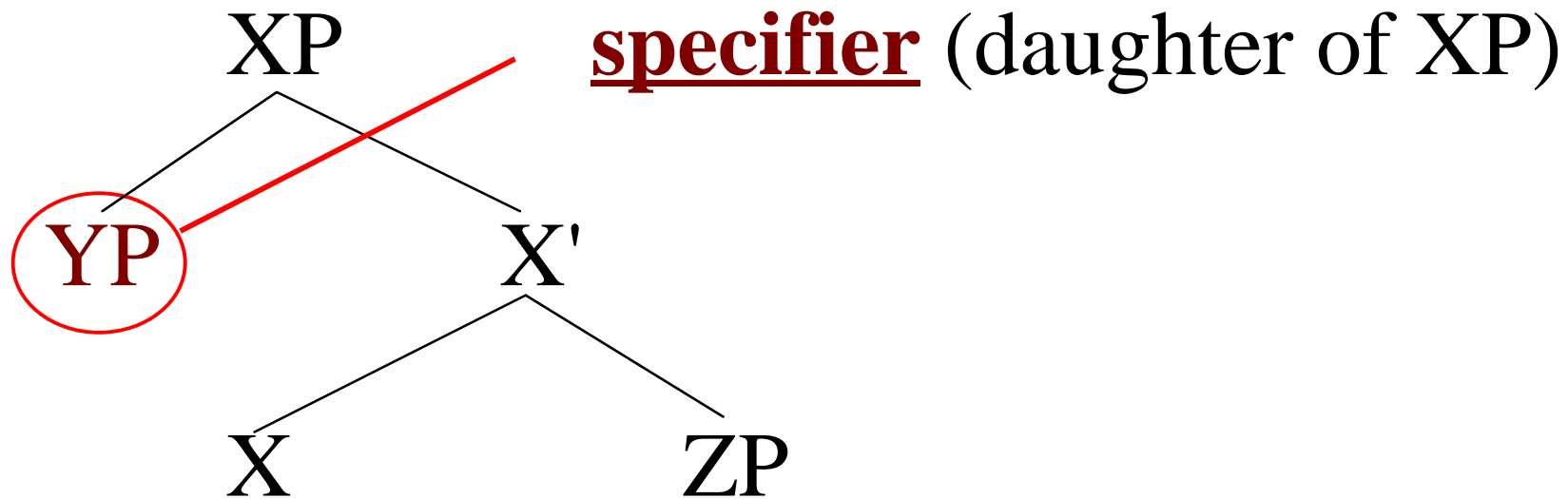
**$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$**



## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$

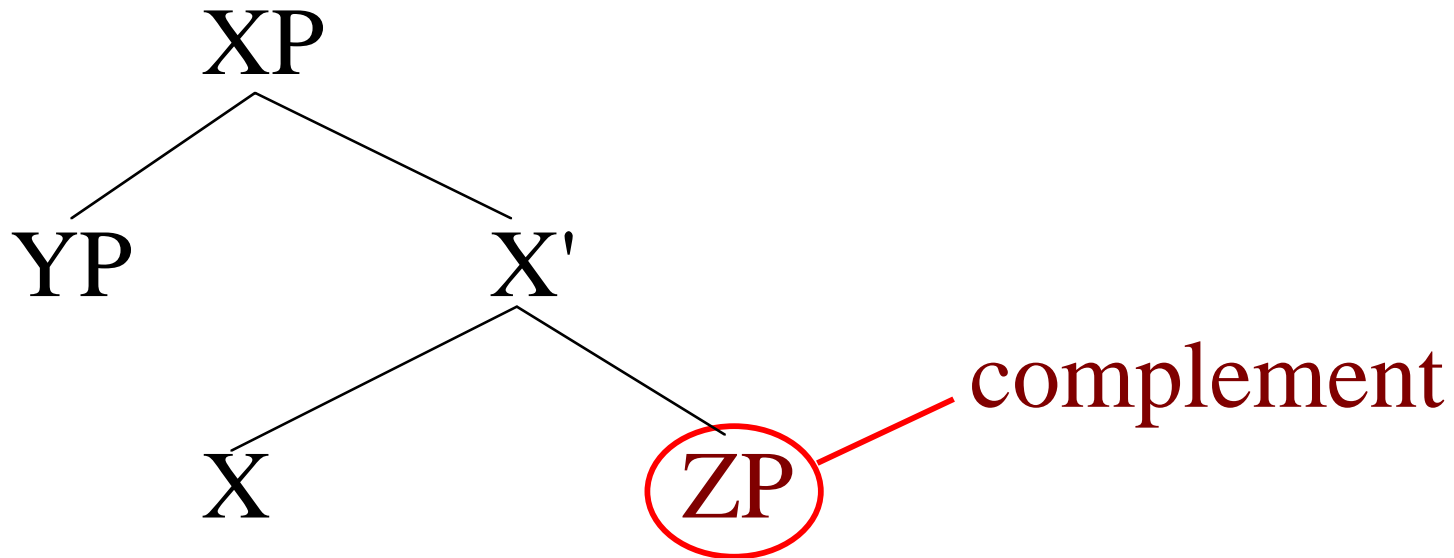




# X-bar schema

**$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$**

**$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$**



## X-bar schema

**XP**--> **(YP) X'**

**X'**--> **(WP) X (ZP)**

**VP**--> **V (NP) (PP)**

## X-bar schema

**XP--> (YP) X'**

**X'--> (WP) X (ZP)**

**VP--> V (NP) (PP)**

The ants **thrived**.

The anteater **arrived**.

The anteater **devoured** the ants.

Mary **slapped** the anteater.

## X-bar schema

**XP--> (YP) X'**

**X'--> (WP) X (ZP)**

**VP--> V (NP) (PP)**

- \* The ants **thrived** the ant-farm.
- \* The anteater **arrived** the house.
- \* The anteater **devoured**.
- \* Mary **slapped**.

**arrive** /əraɪv/

"get to a place"

V

**intransitive** (must not have an NP sister)

**slap** /slæp/

"strike with the flat of the hand"

V

**transitive** (must have an NP sister)

## selection/subcategorization:

heads get to say what their complements should be.

not just NP....

The anteater put the ants on the plate.

\* The anteater put on the plate.

\* The anteater put the ants.

\* The anteater put.

-->put selects for an NP and a PP.

## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$

...with selection filling in some of the gaps.

**...but not everything is selected:**

the bug

the big bug

the big black bug

the big black flying bug



**...but not everything is selected:**

the bug

(orange, anteater...)

the big bug

the big black bug

the big black flying bug

**...not everything is selected:**

the student

the student with blue hair

the student with blue hair in the front row

**..not everything is selected:**

the student (orange, anteater...)

the student with blue hair

the student with blue hair in the front row

**...but some things are selected:**

the student of physics

\*the orange of physics

\*the anteater of physics

the student with blue hair

the orange with blue hair

the anteater with blue hair

## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

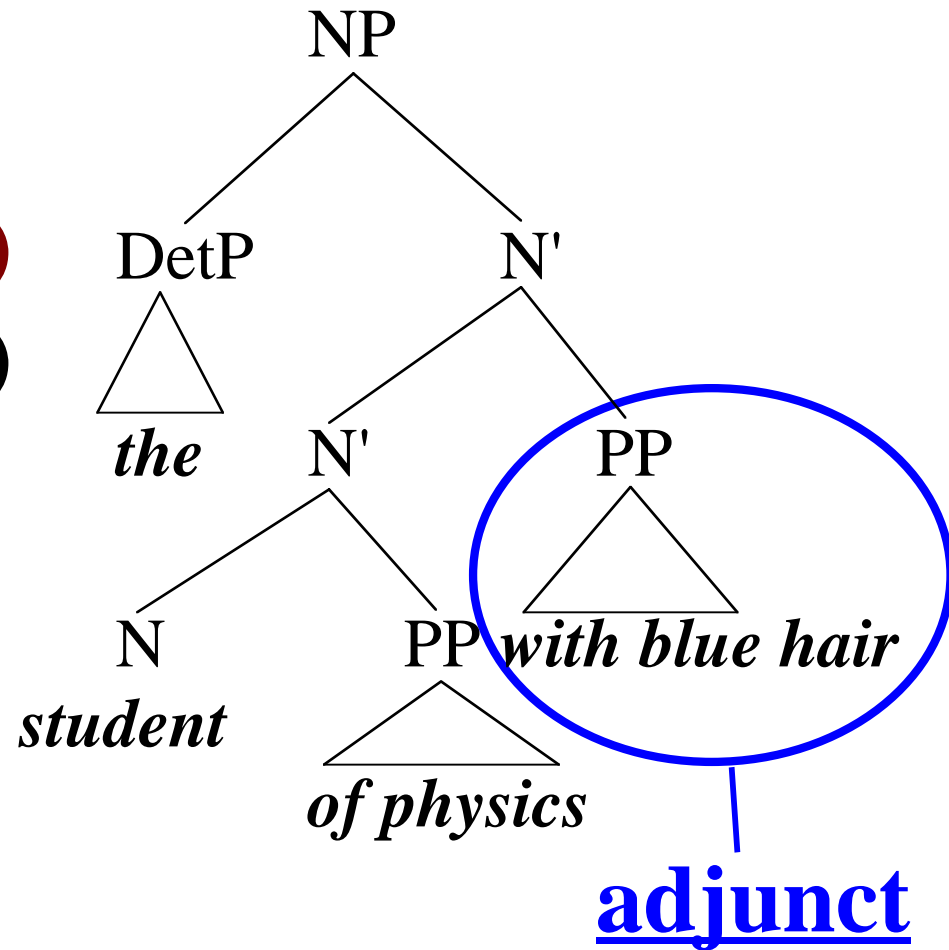
$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$

# X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$

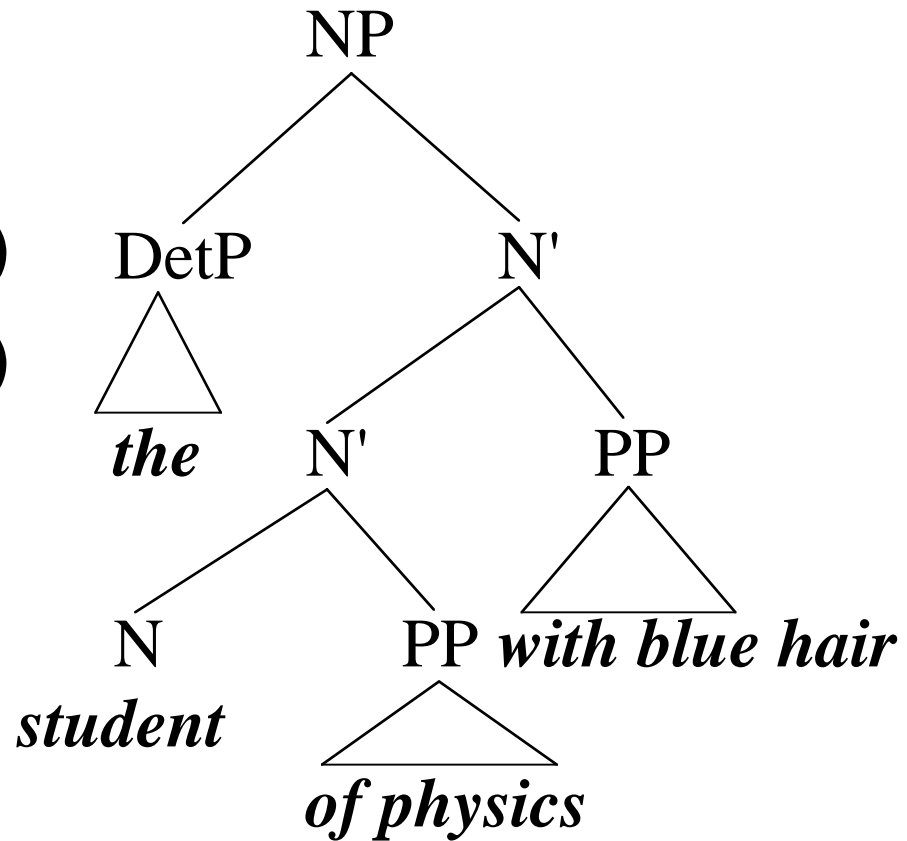


## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$



## Projection Principle

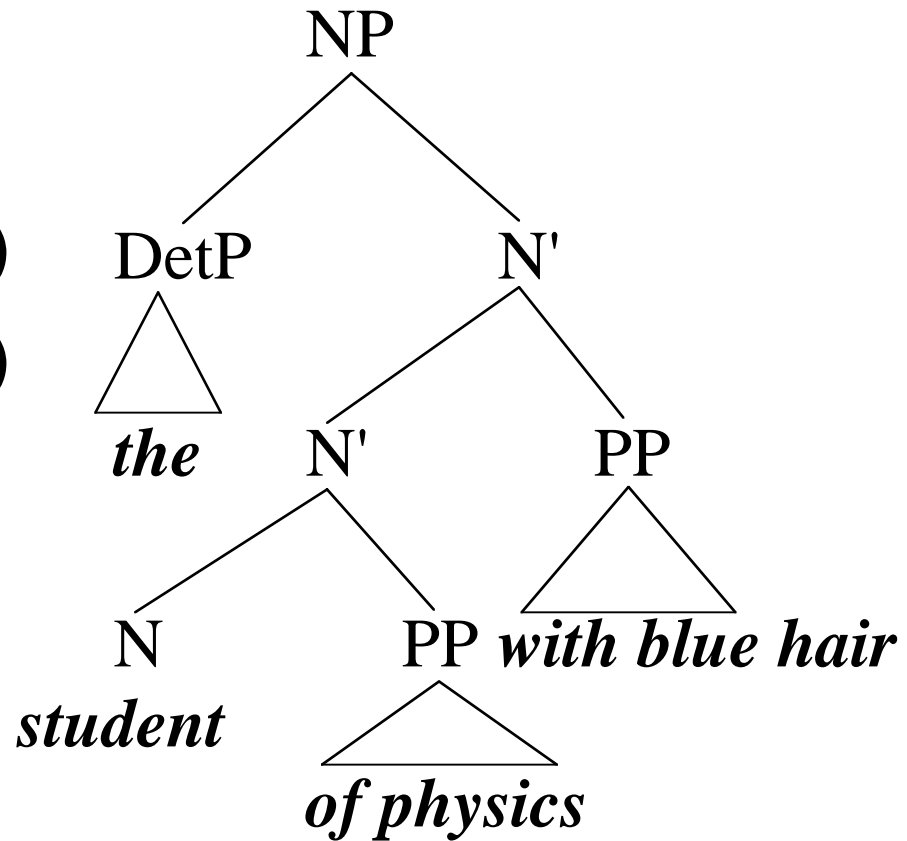
All and only complements are selected by the head.

## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$



the student [with blue hair] [in the front row]

\*the student [of physics] [of chemistry]

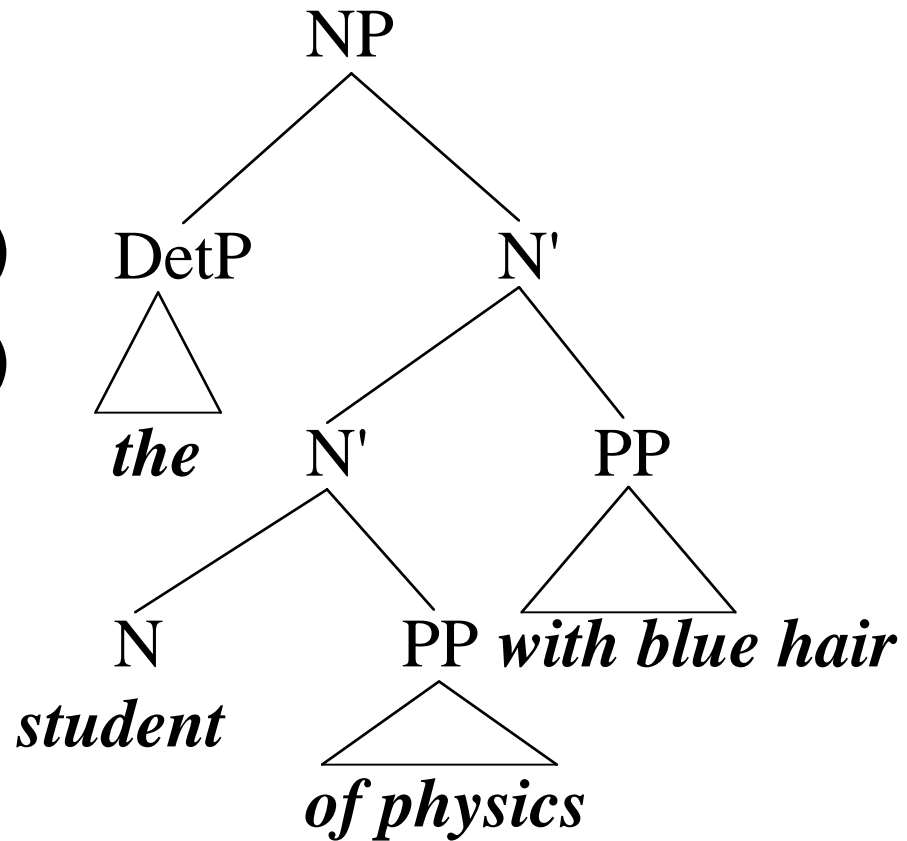


## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$



student [of physics] [with blue hair]

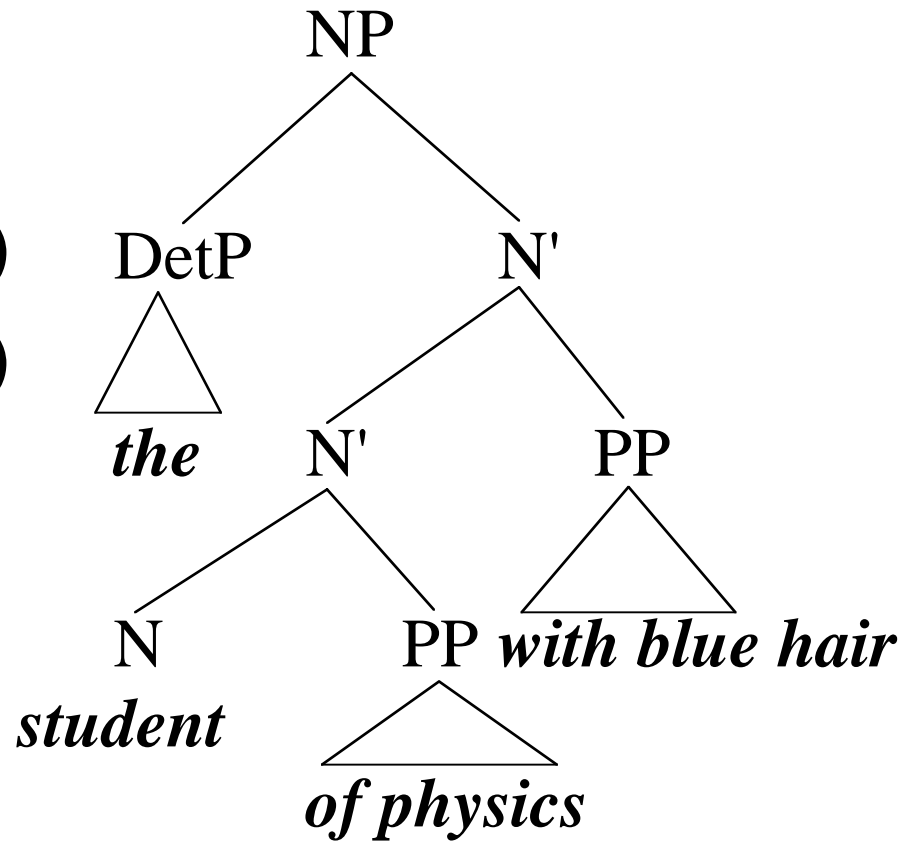
\*student [with blue hair] [of physics]

## X-bar schema

$XP \rightarrow (YP) X'$

$X' \rightarrow (TP) X' (UP)$

$X' \rightarrow (WP) X (ZP)$



the [student of physics]

and [purveyor of fine chocolates]

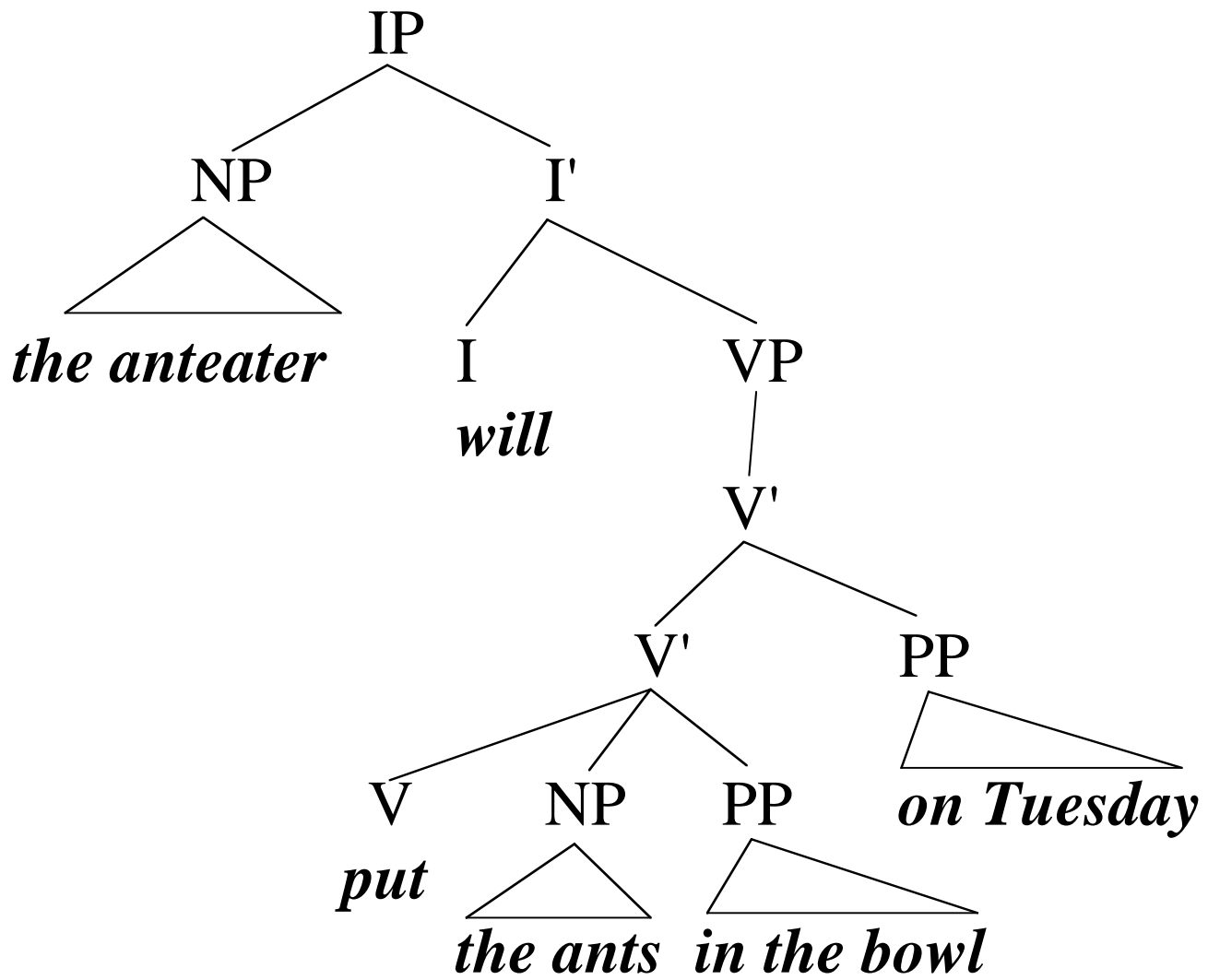
[with blue hair]

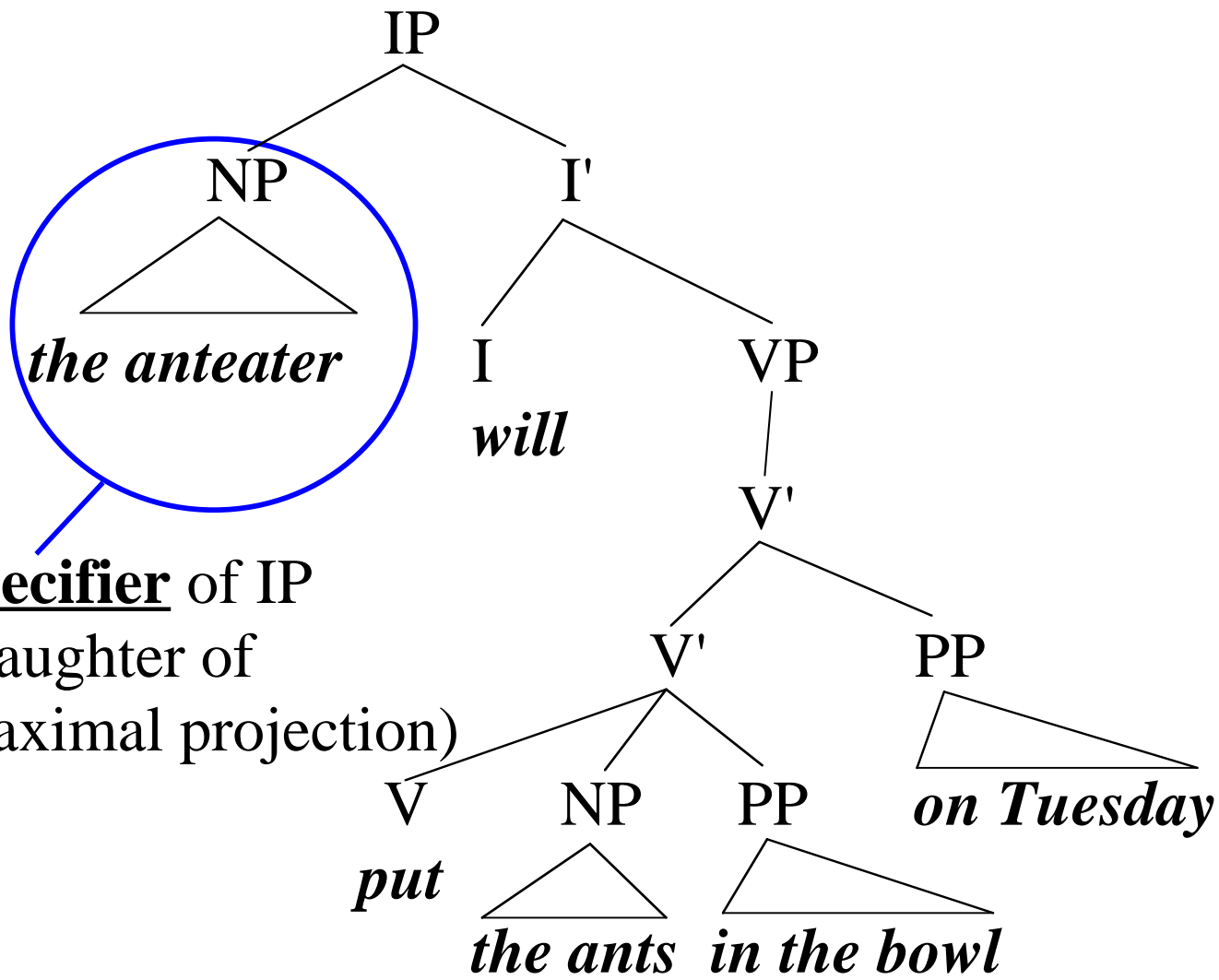
The anteater will put the ants into the bowl

\*The anteater will put into the bowl

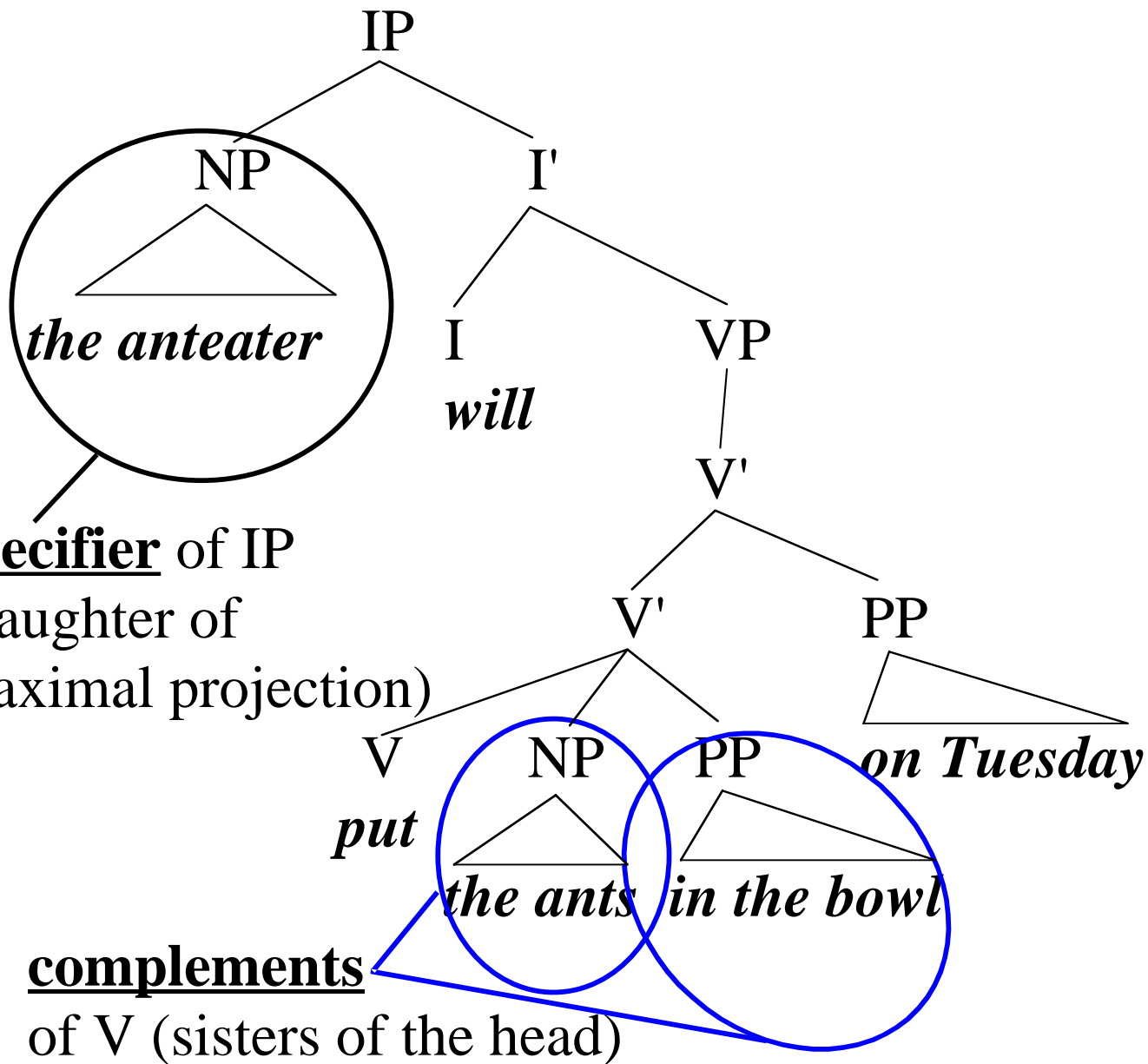
\*The anteater will put the ants

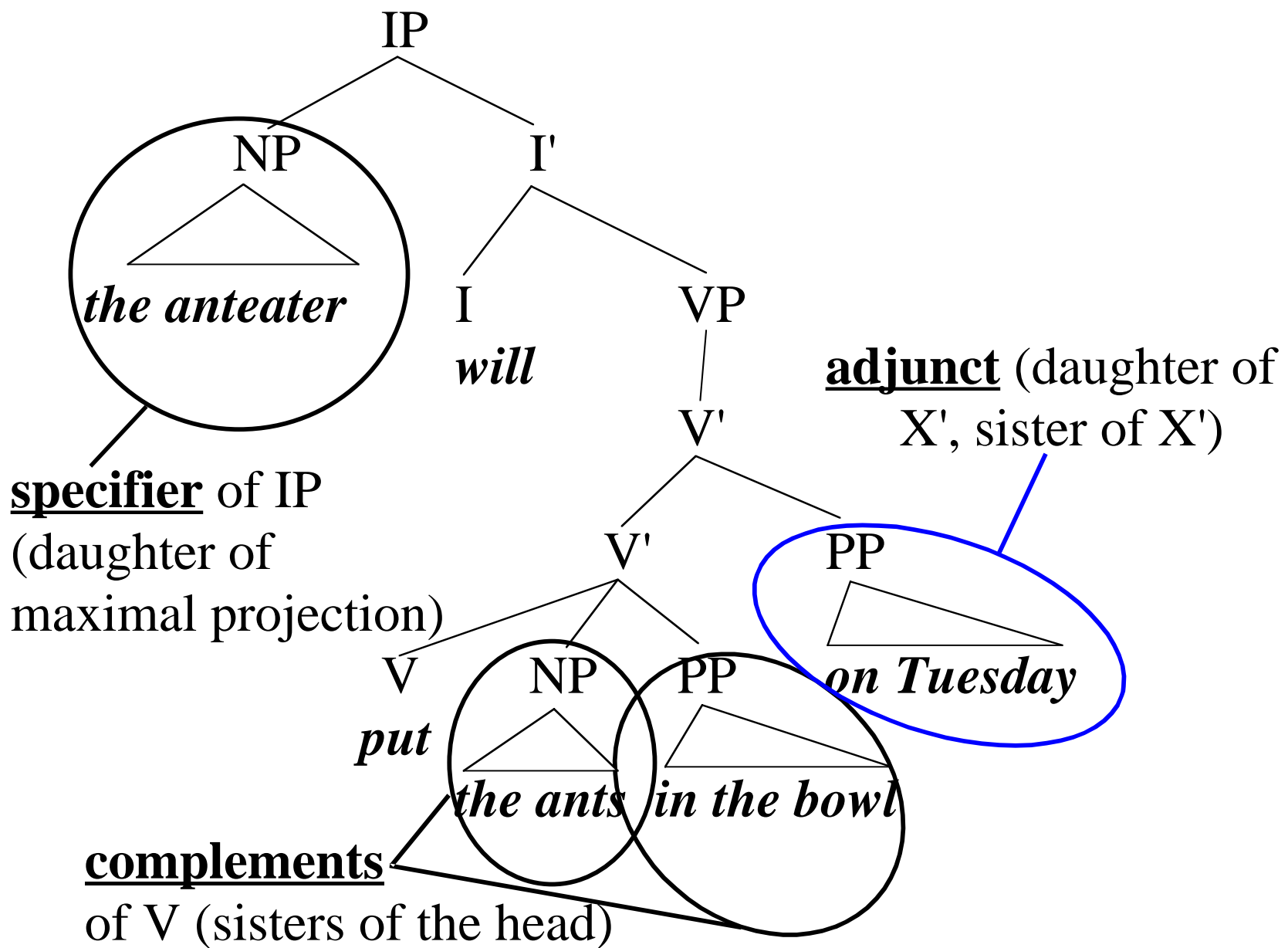
-->*put* selects for an NP and a PP





**specifier** of IP  
 (daughter of  
 maximal projection)





The anteater will put **the ants** **into the bowl**

\*The anteater will put **into the bowl**

\*The anteater will put **the ants**

What will the anteater put **into the bowl**?

-->failure of subcategorization?



The anteater will put **the ants on the plate**

\*The anteater will put **on the plate**

\*The anteater will put **the ants**

the anteater will put **what on the plate?**

The anteater will put the ants on the plate

\*The anteater will put on the plate

\*The anteater will put the ants

What will the anteater put \_\_\_ on the plate?



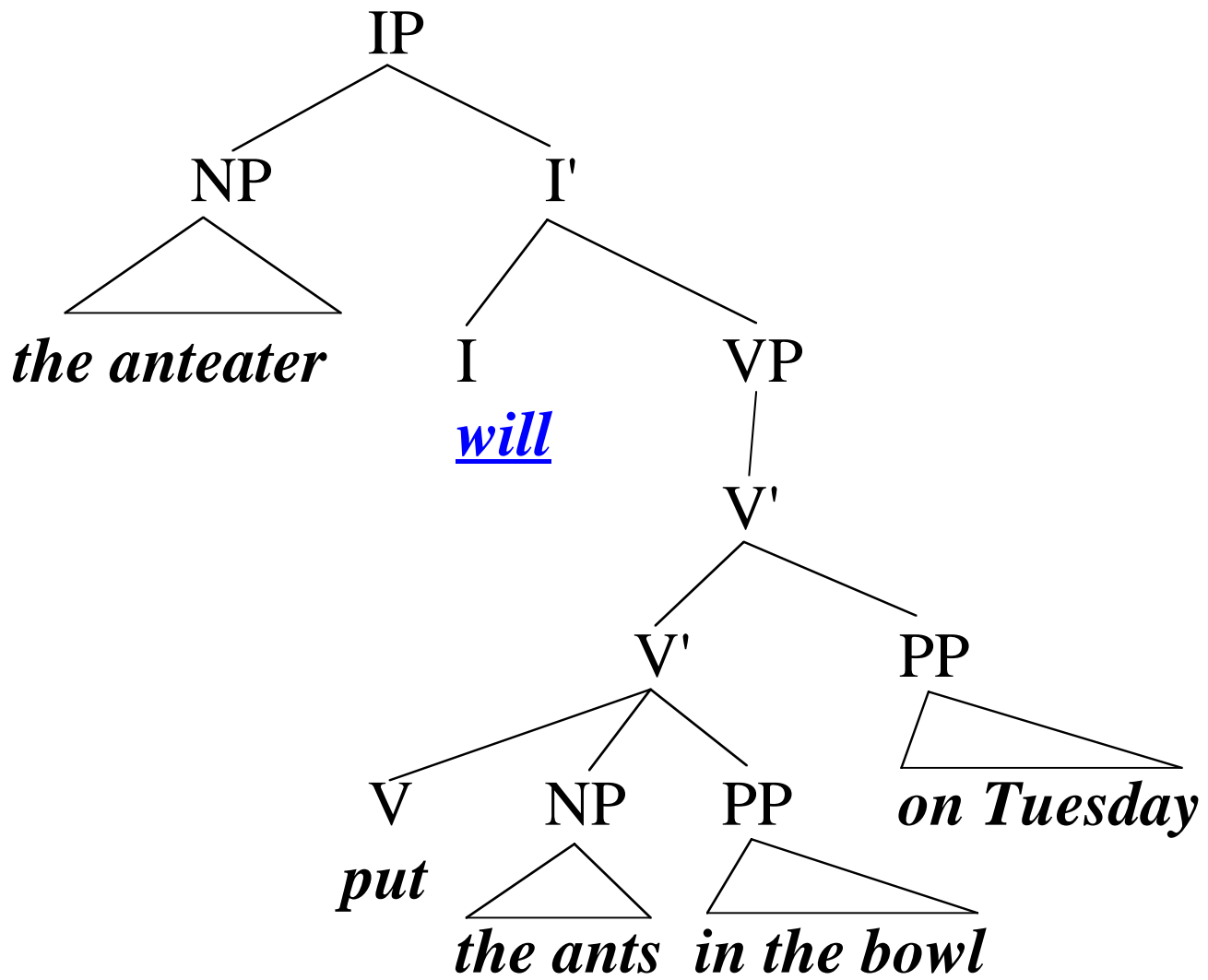
**actually, two things are moving...**

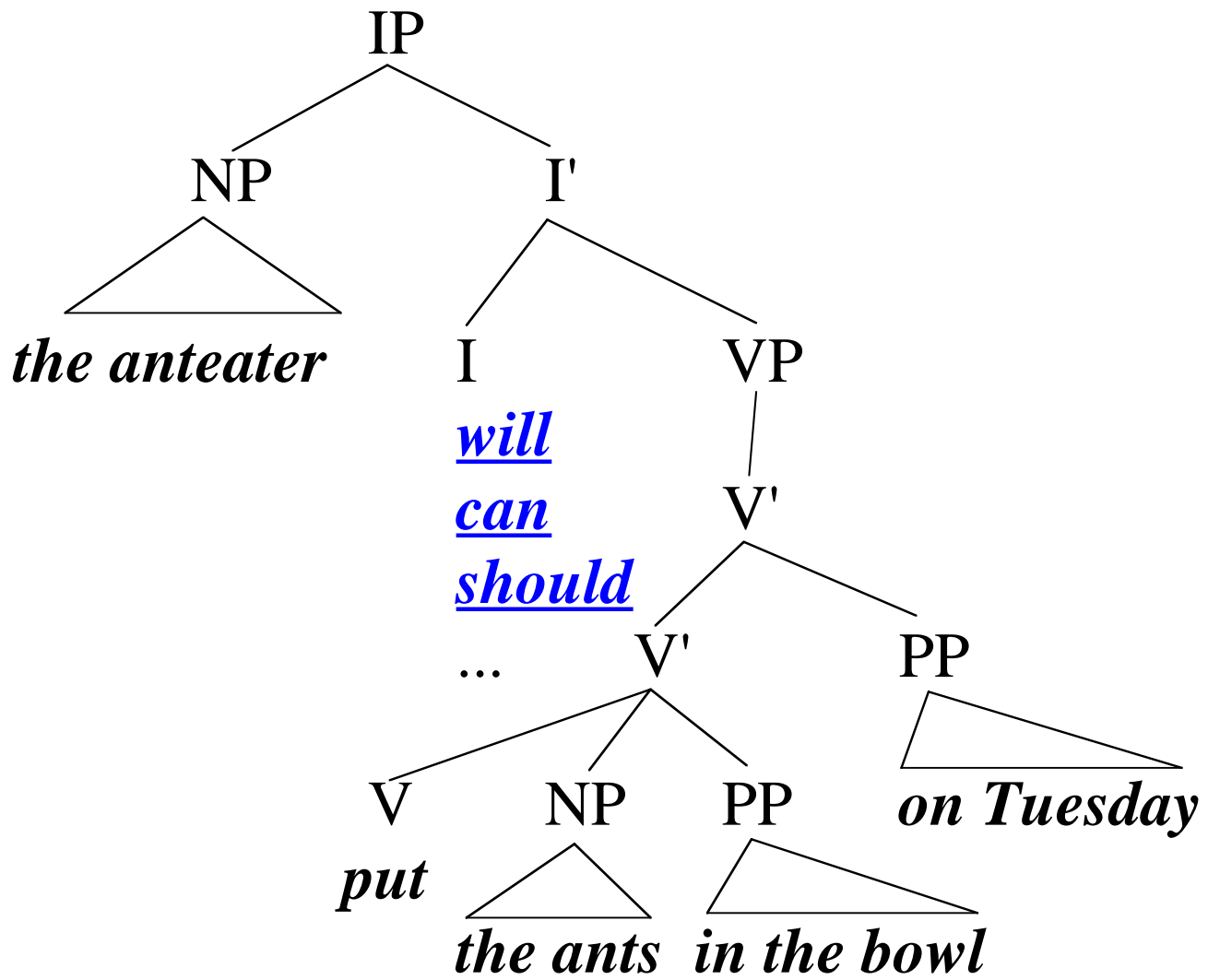


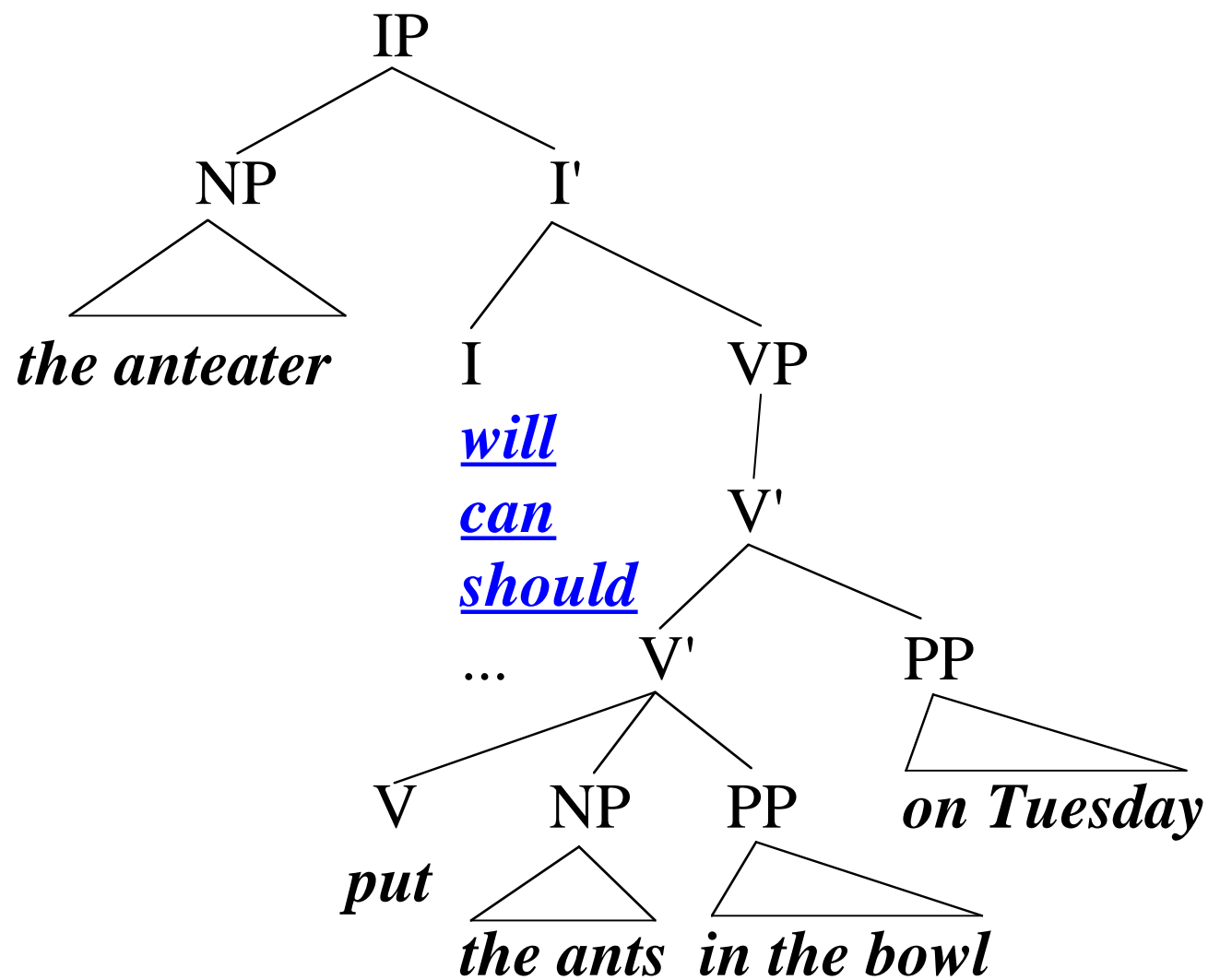
**What will the anteater \_\_\_ put \_\_\_ on the p.?**



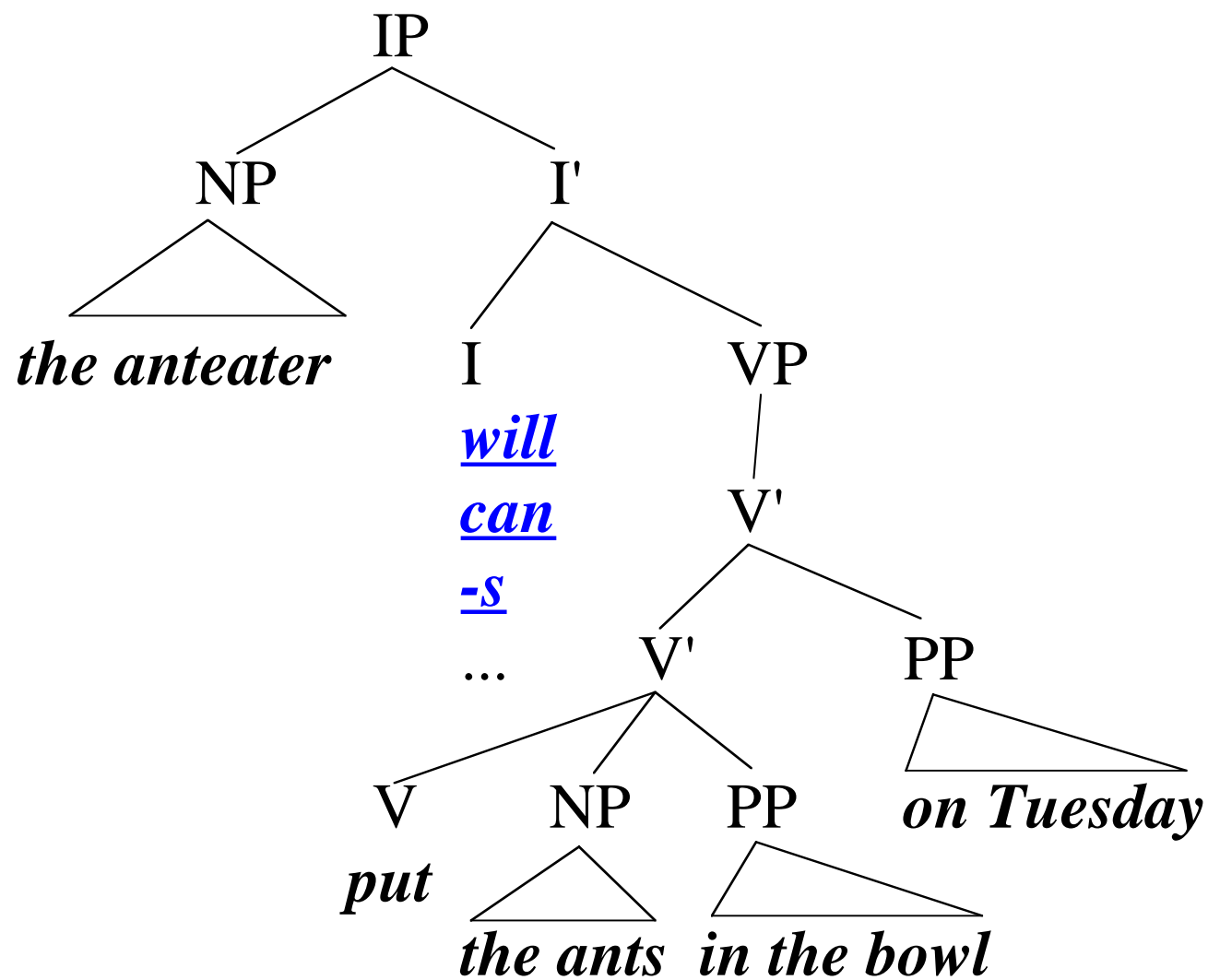
...and since will is **bright blue**, let's concentrate on it first.





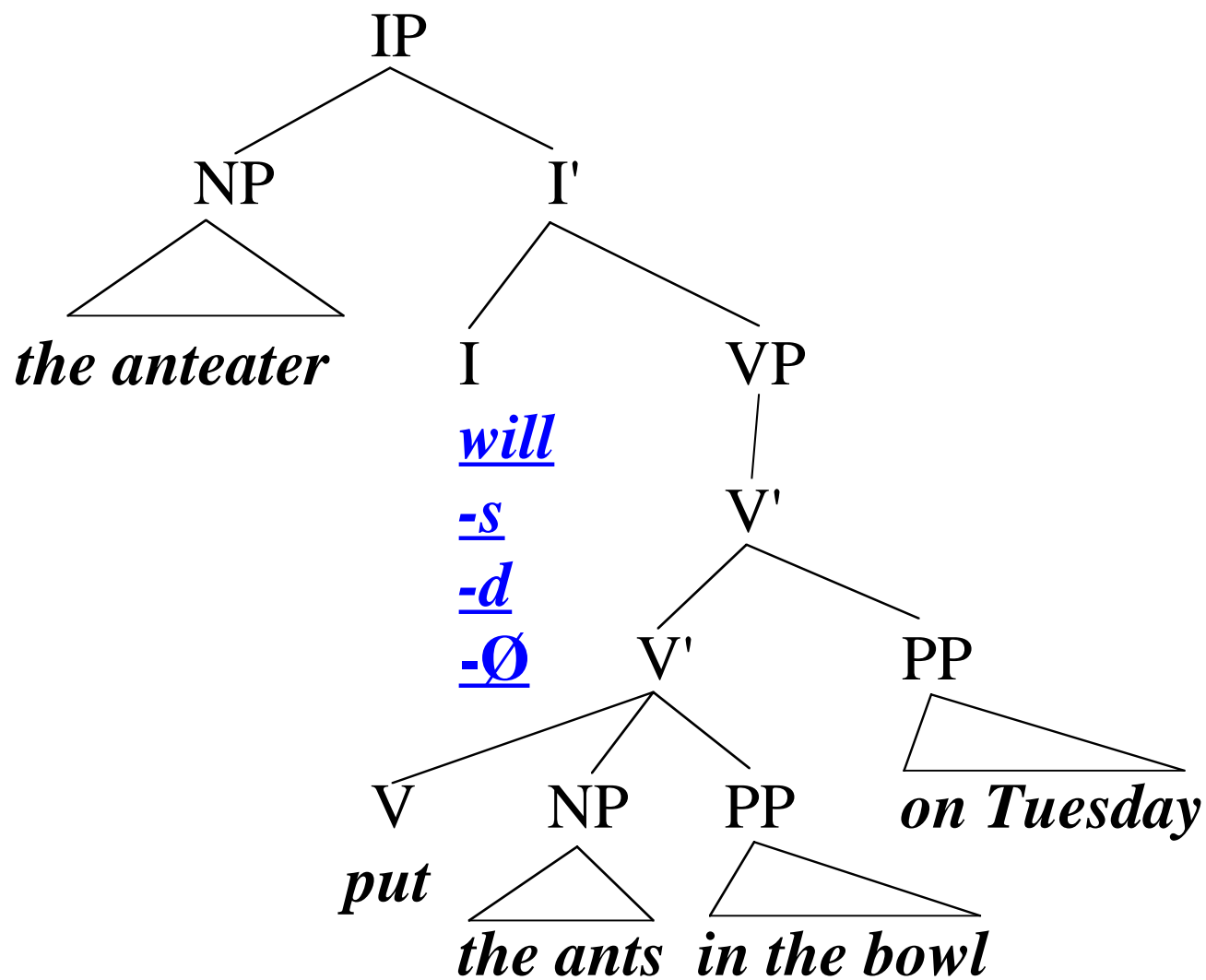


\*The anteater will can put the ants...



The anteater puts the ants...

\*The anteater will puts the ants...



The anteater **put-Ø** the ants...

The anteater **place-d** the ants...

I next to V somehow gets onto V



**a new XP: CP**

The anteater will eat ants.

## a new XP: CP

The anteater will eat ants.

I wonder [whether the anteater will eat ants]

I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]

## a new XP: CP

The anteater will eat ants.

I wonder [whether the anteater will eat ants]

I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]

[that the anteater will eat ants], I believe.

I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]

and [that the earth is flat]

## a new XP: CP

The anteater will eat ants.

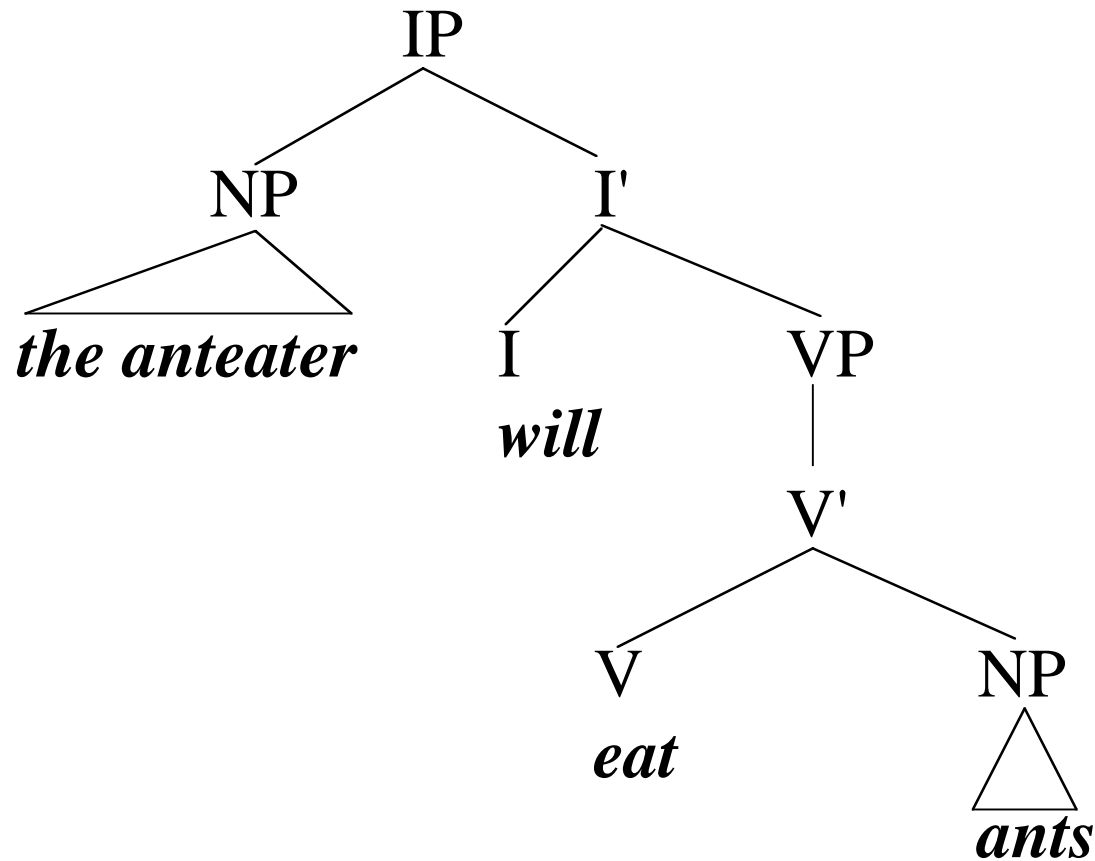
I wonder [whether the anteater will eat ants]

I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]

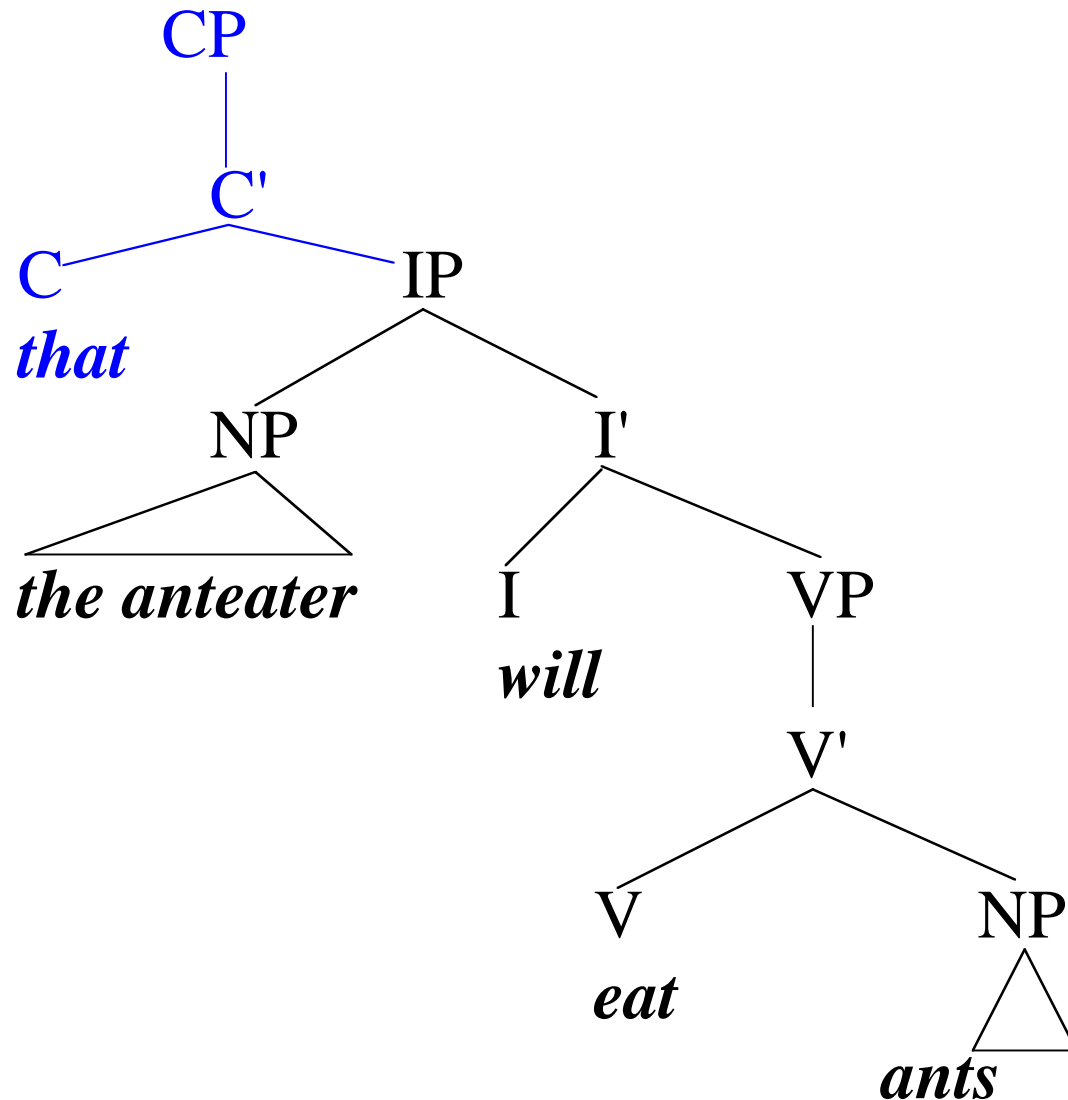
\*I wonder [that the anteater will eat ants]

\*I believe [whether the anteater will eat ants]

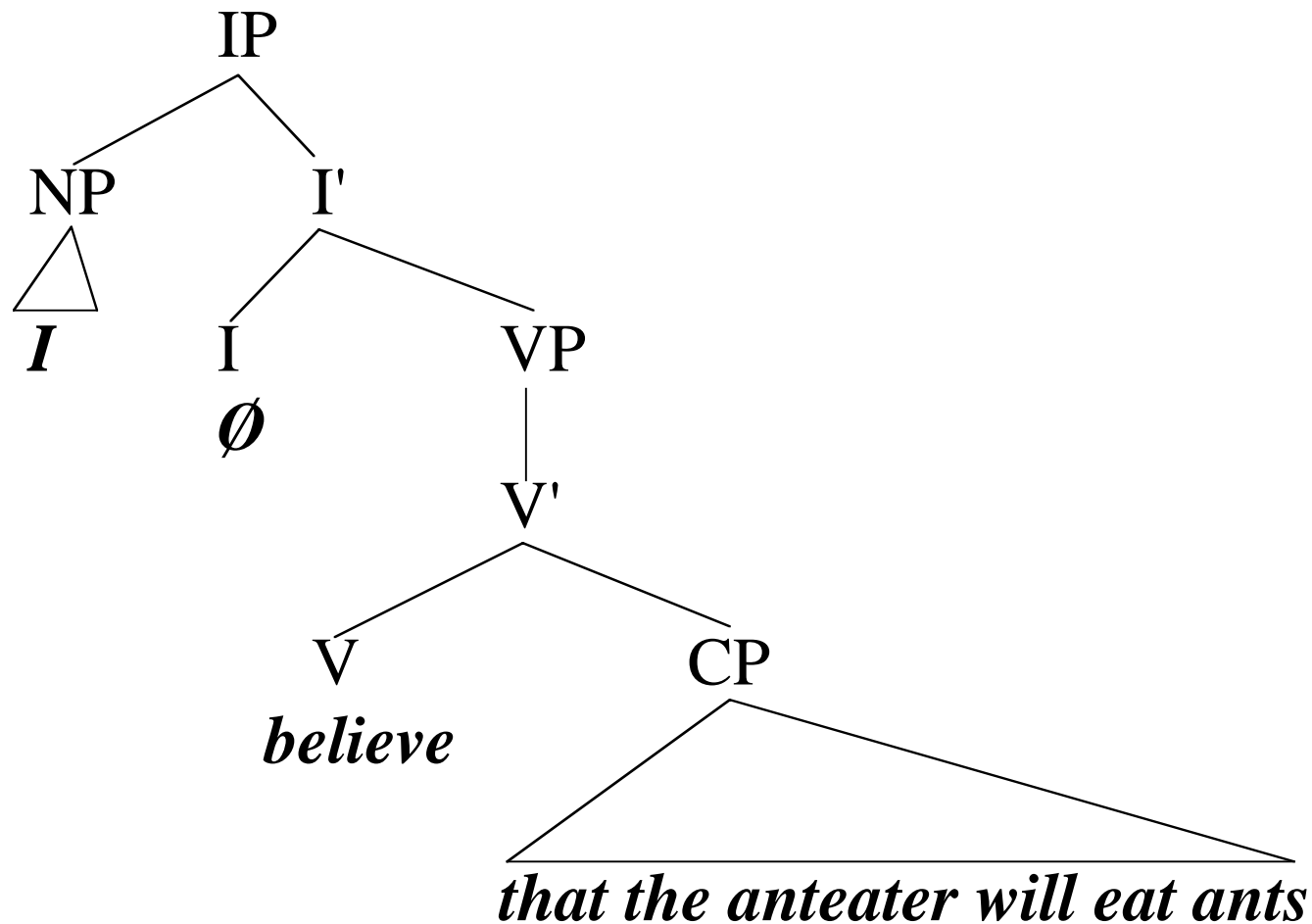
I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]



I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]



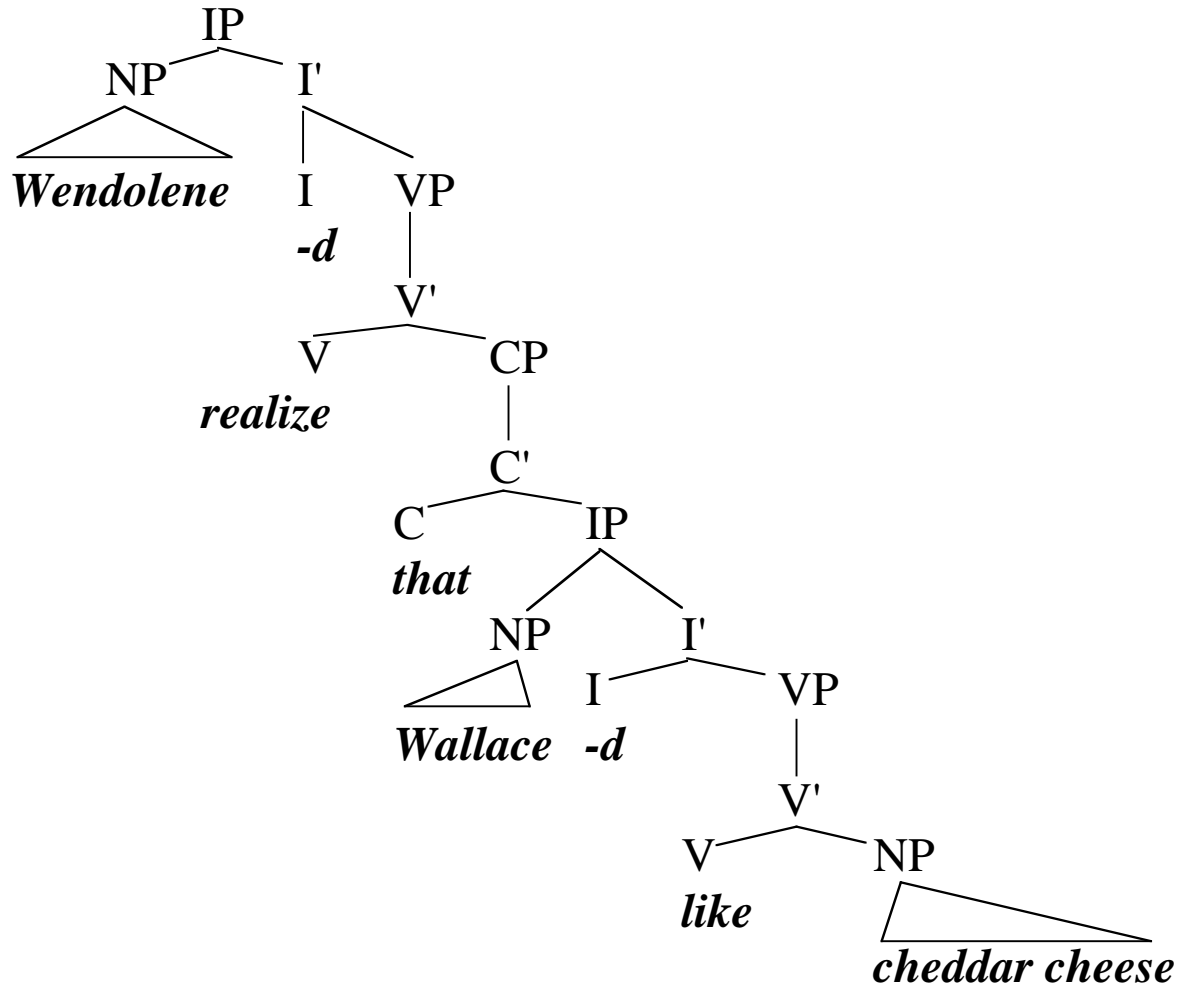
I believe [that the anteater will eat ants]



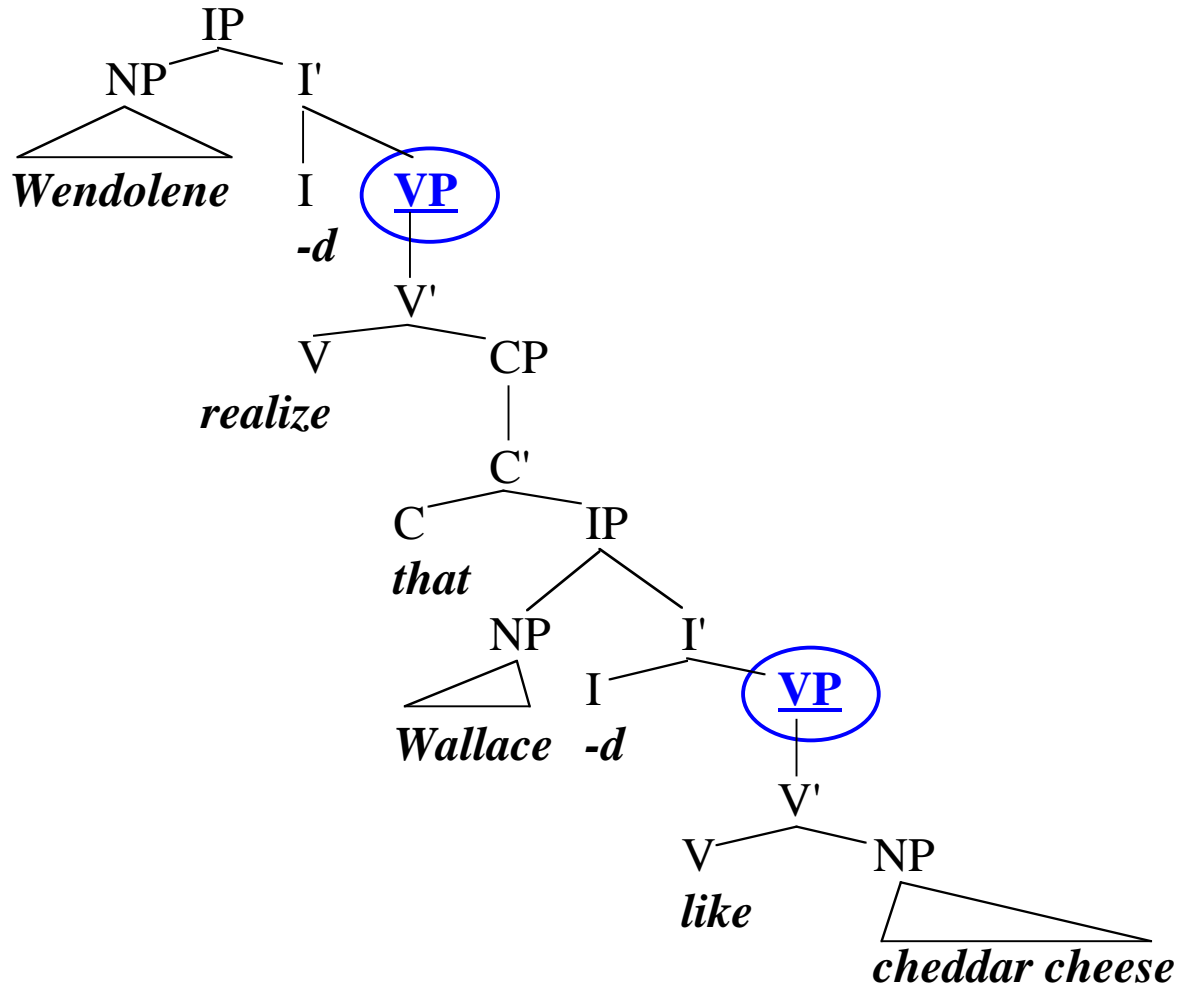
Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub.



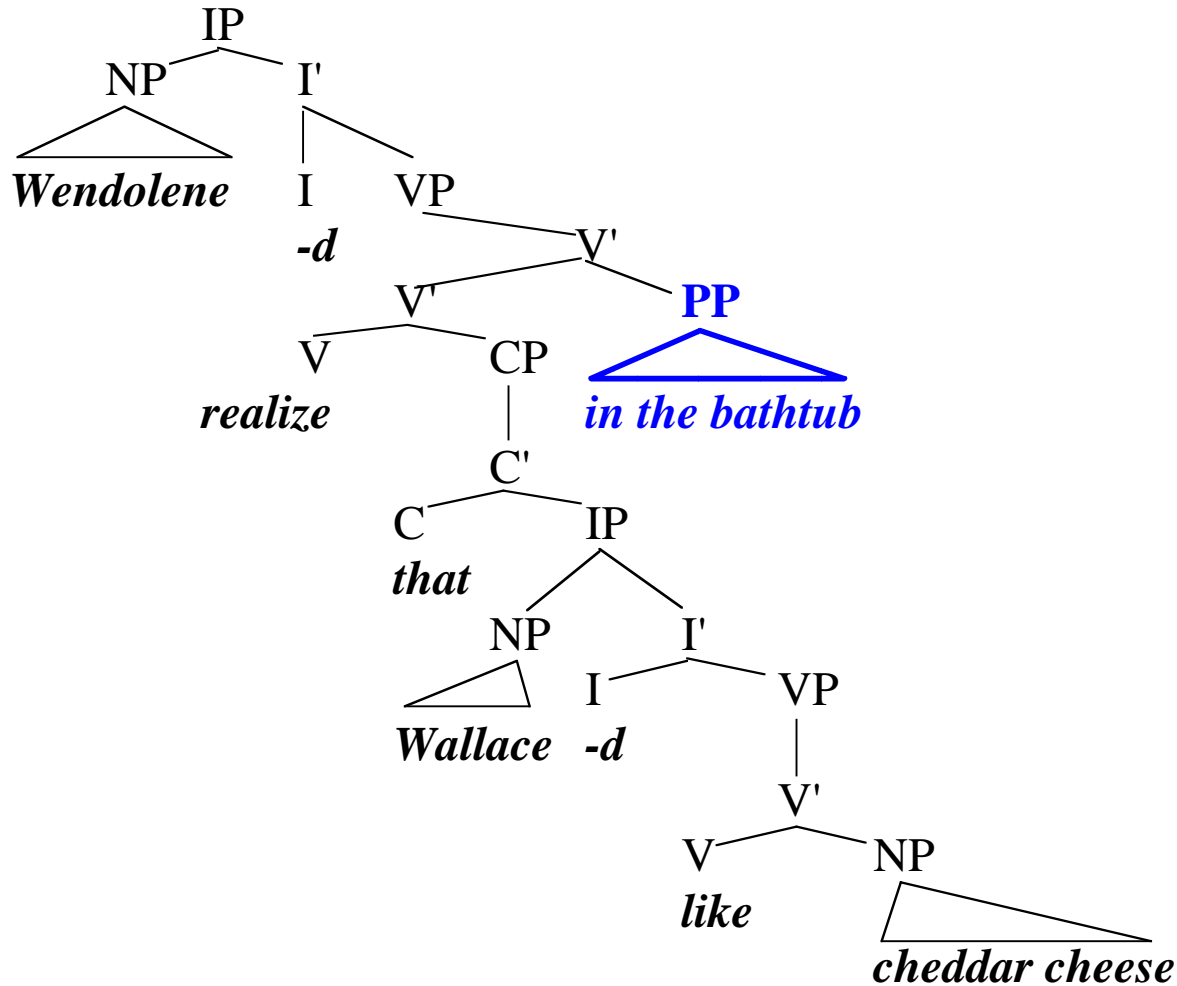
Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub.



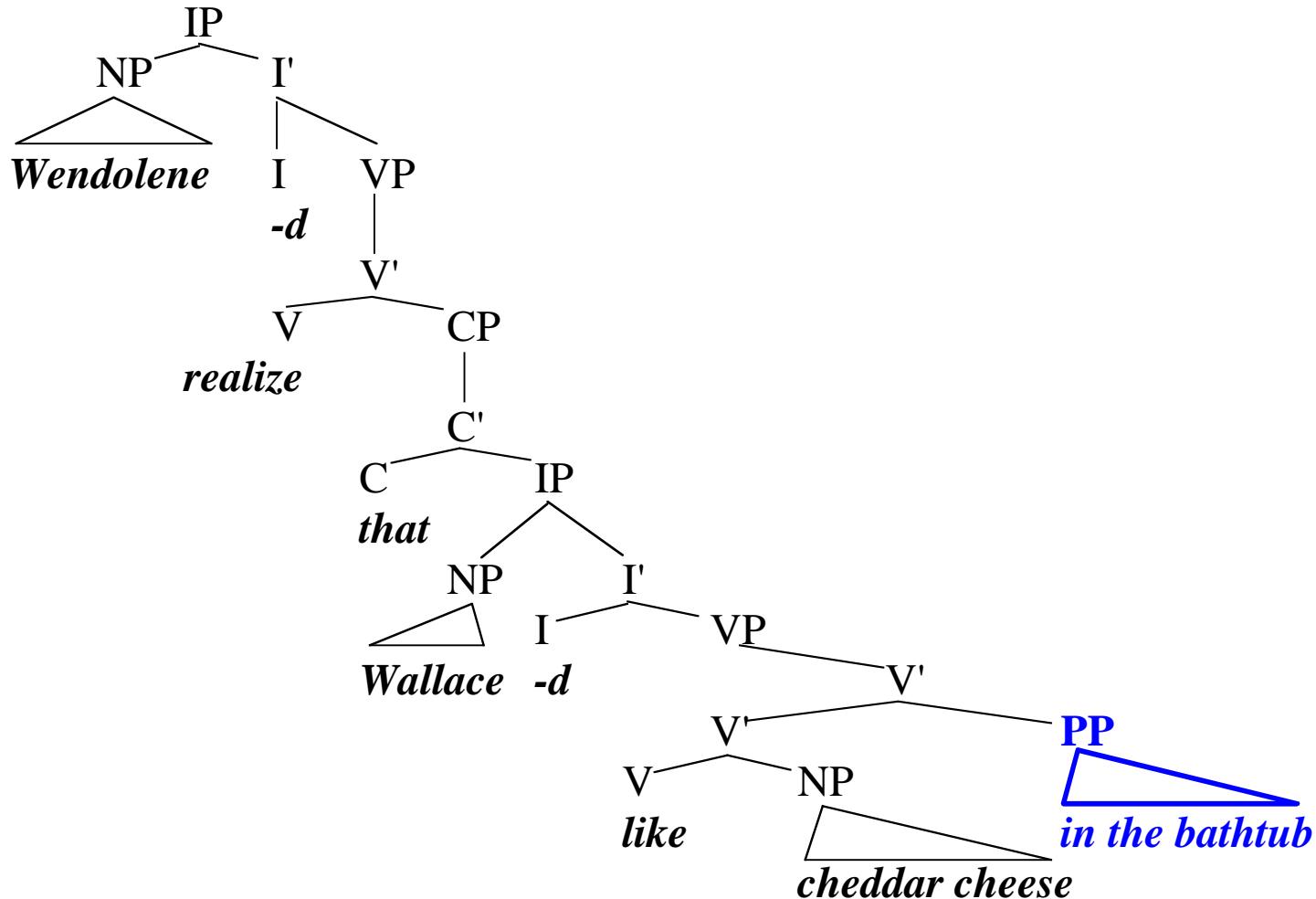
Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub.



Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub.

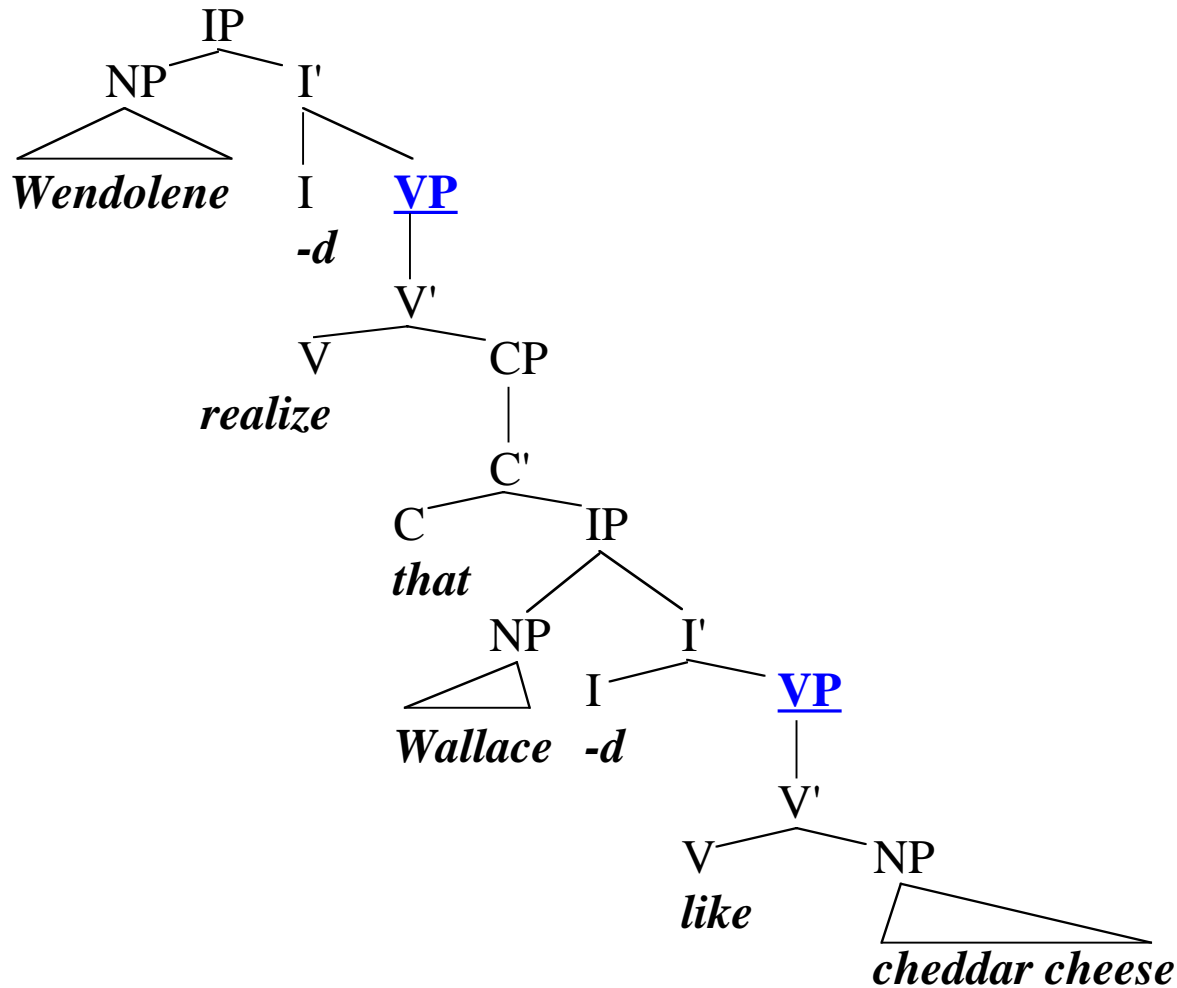


Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub.

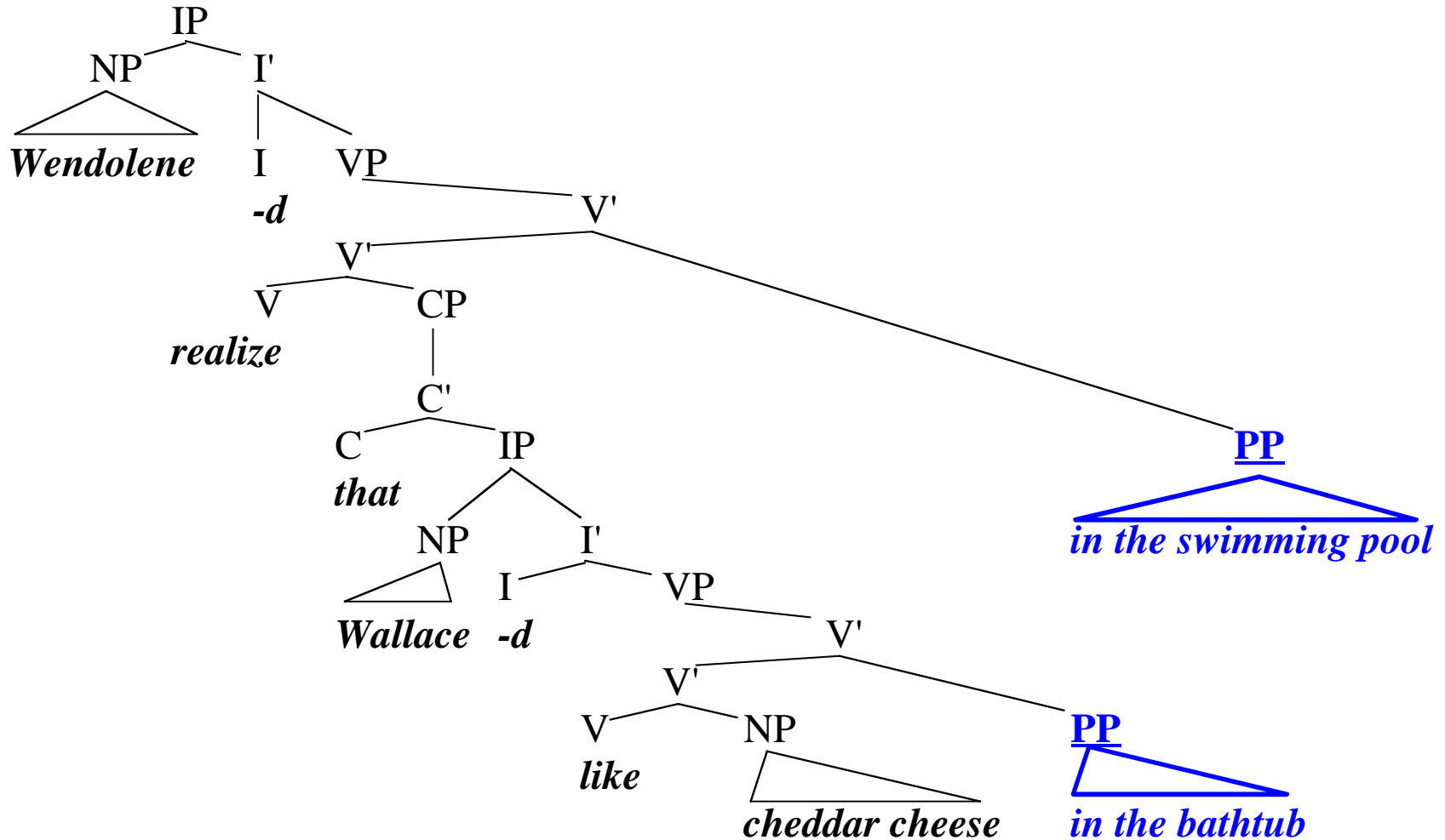


Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar  
cheese in the bathtub in the swimming pool

Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub in the swimming pool

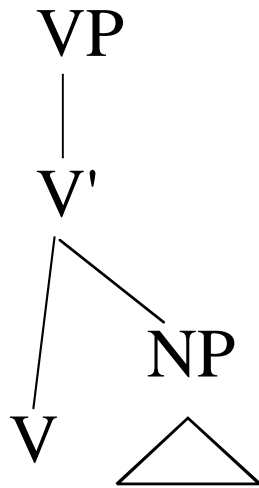


Wendolene realized that Wallace liked cheddar cheese in the bathtub in the swimming pool



# English, Japanese:

VP:

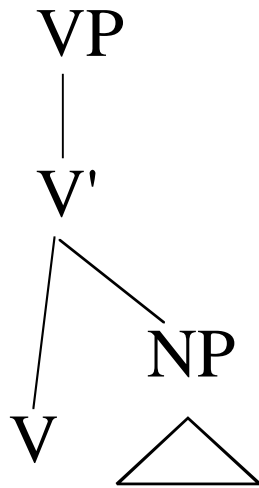


John [ate nattoo].

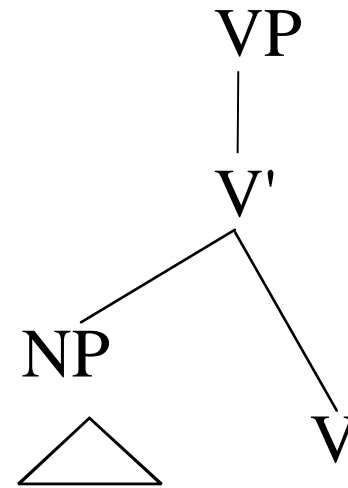


# English, Japanese:

## VP:



John [ate nattoo].



John-wa [nattoo-o tabeta].

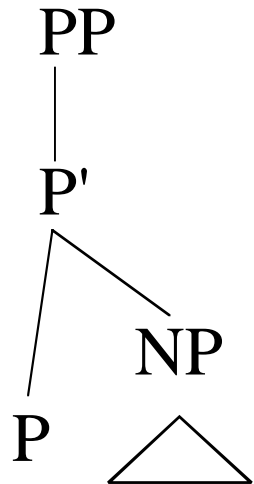
# English, Japanese:

## VP:

V NP  
John [ate nattoo].

NP V  
John-wa [nattoo-o tabeta].

## PP:



Mary went [to Tokyo].

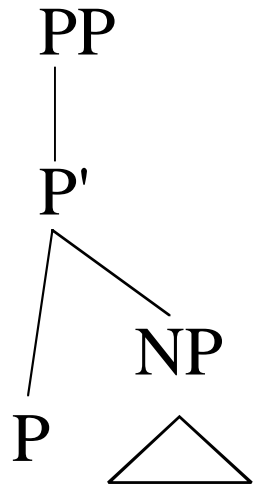
# English, Japanese:

## VP:

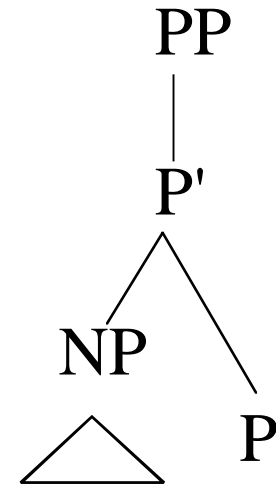
V NP  
John [ate nattoo].

NP V  
John-wa [nattoo-o tabeta].

## PP:



Mary went [to Tokyo].



Mary-wa [Tookyoo e] itta.

# English, Japanese:

## VP:

V NP

John [ate natto].

NP V

John-wa [natto-o tabeta].

## PP:

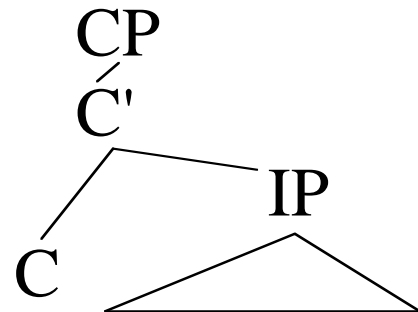
P NP

Mary went [to Tokyo].

NP P

Mary-wa [Tookyoo e] itta.

## CP:



Bill thinks [that natto is tasty].

# English, Japanese:

## VP:

V NP

John [ate natto].

NP V

John-wa [natto-o tabeta].

## PP:

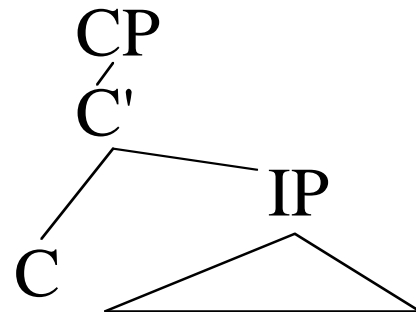
P NP

Mary went [to Tokyo].

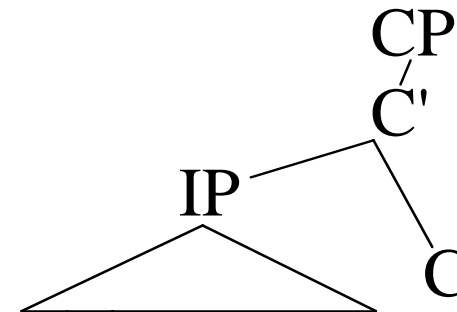
NP P

Mary-wa [Tookyoo e] itta.

## CP:



Bill thinks [that natto is tasty].



Bill-wa [natto-ga oishii to] omou.

# English, Japanese:

## VP:

V NP

John [ate natto].

NP V

John-wa [natto-o tabeta].

## PP:

P NP

Mary went [to Tokyo].

NP P

Mary-wa [Tookyoo e] itta.

## CP:

C IP

Bill thinks [that natto is tasty].

IP C

Bill-wa [natto-ga oishii to] omou.

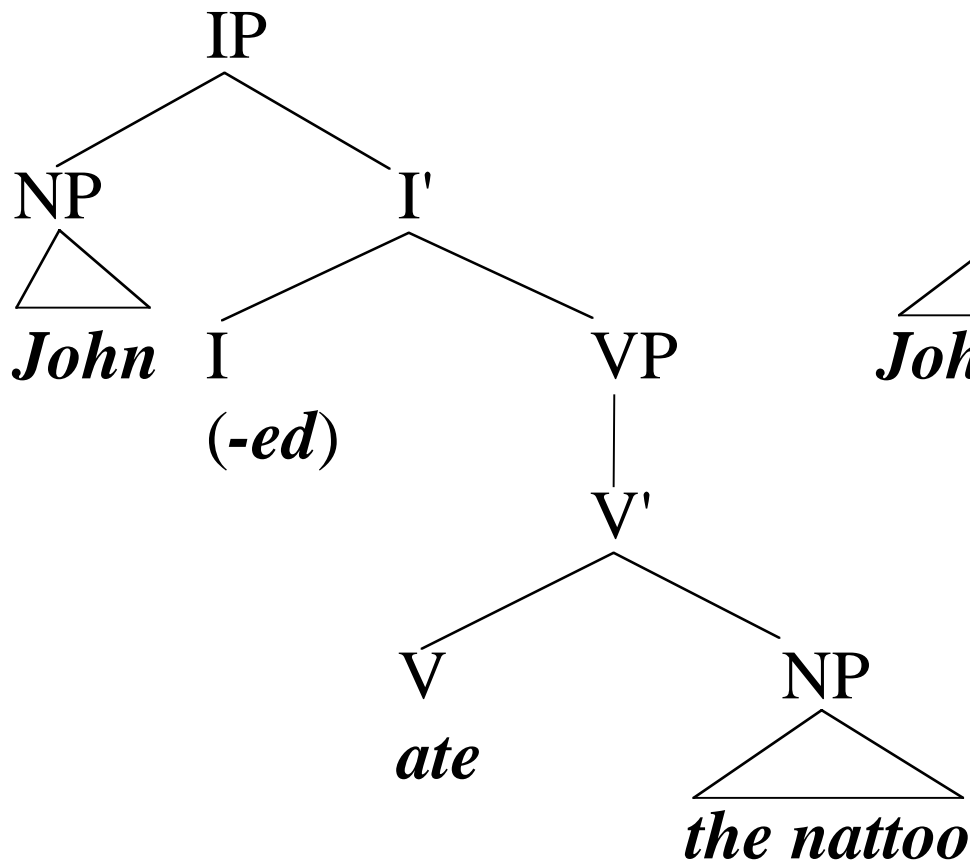
heads **precede** complements

heads **follow** complements

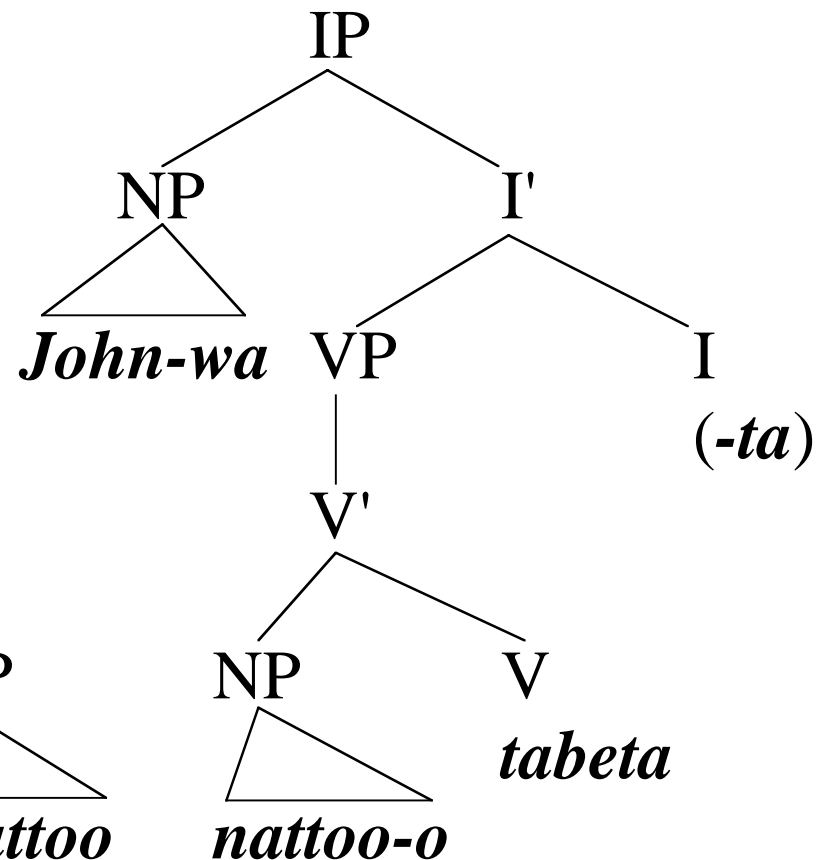
## Head direction parameter:

Heads {precede, follow} their complements.

English: SVO



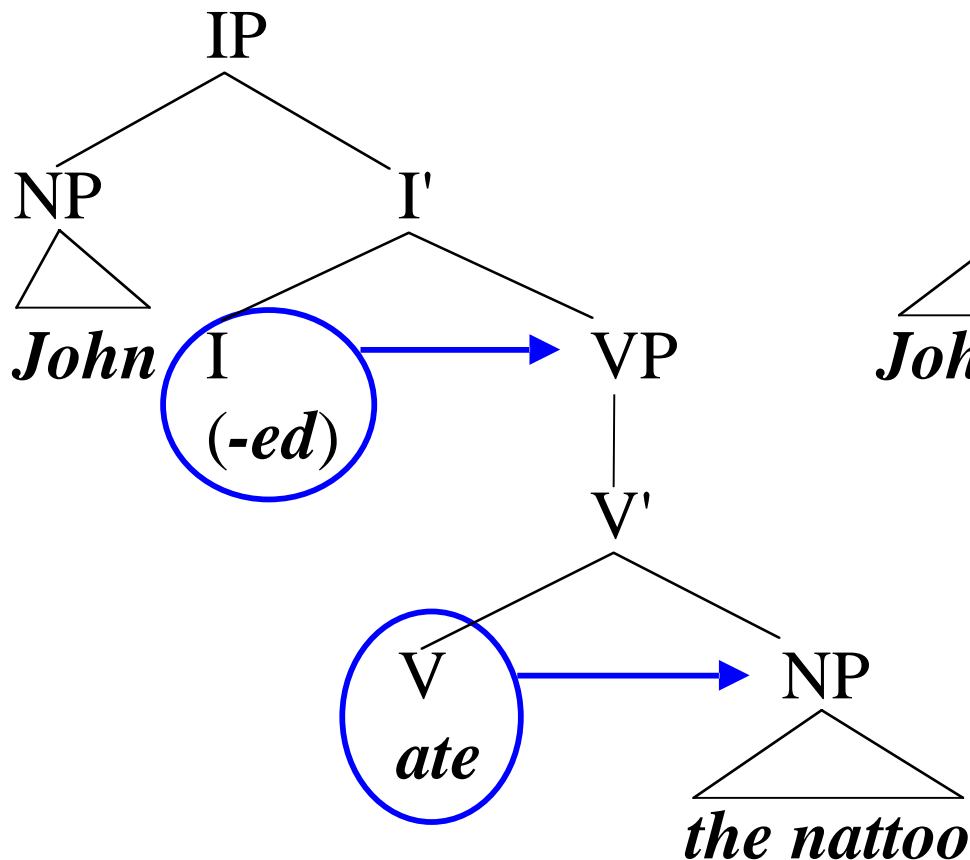
Japanese: SOV



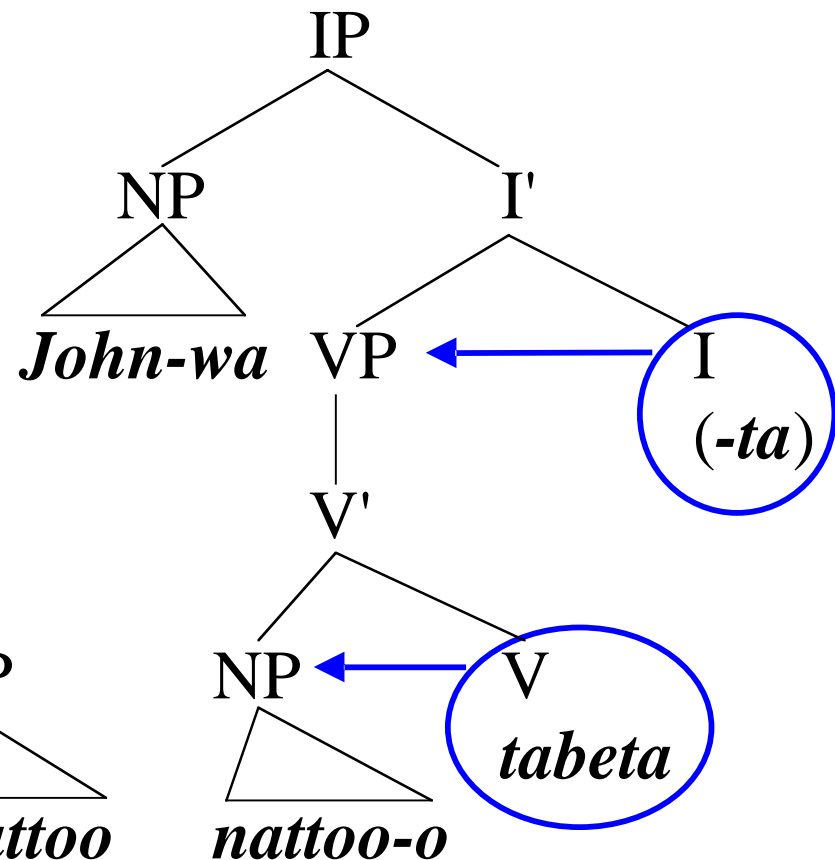
## Head direction parameter:

Heads {precede, follow} their complements.

English: SVO



Japanese: SOV





# Head-final languages:

## VP:

NP      V

John-wa [nattoo-o tabeta].

'John ate nattoo' (*Japanese*)

Bkrashis-lags-gi [shabagleb mchodpared]

'Tashi ate shabagleb' (*Tibetan*)

Maana [moosat nopna]

'The girl fed the cat' (*Hopi*)

## PP:

NP      P

Mary-wa [Tookyoo e] itta.

'Mary went to Tokyo' (*Japanese*)

Bkrashis-lags-gi [Lhasa

la] phebspared.

'Tashi went to Lhasa' (*Tibetan*)

Moosa

[maanat aw]

wayma.

'The cat walks toward the girl' (*Hopi*)

## Head-initial languages:

### VP:

V      NP

John [ate      hamburgers]

[kumain ng itlog      ] ang lalaki 'The man ate an egg' (*Tagalog*)

[nilikuta kitabu]      'I found the book' (*Swahili*)

### PP:

P      NP

Mary went [to Boston]

Pumunta      [sa Maynila]      si Maria      'Mary went to Manila' (*Tagalog*)

alitembea      [mpaka Dar]      'He walked to Dar' (*Swahili*)

Languages don't just differ without limit;  
there are patterns. Head-final/head-initial is  
one of the typical patterns.

(though, to be honest.....)

Back to English:

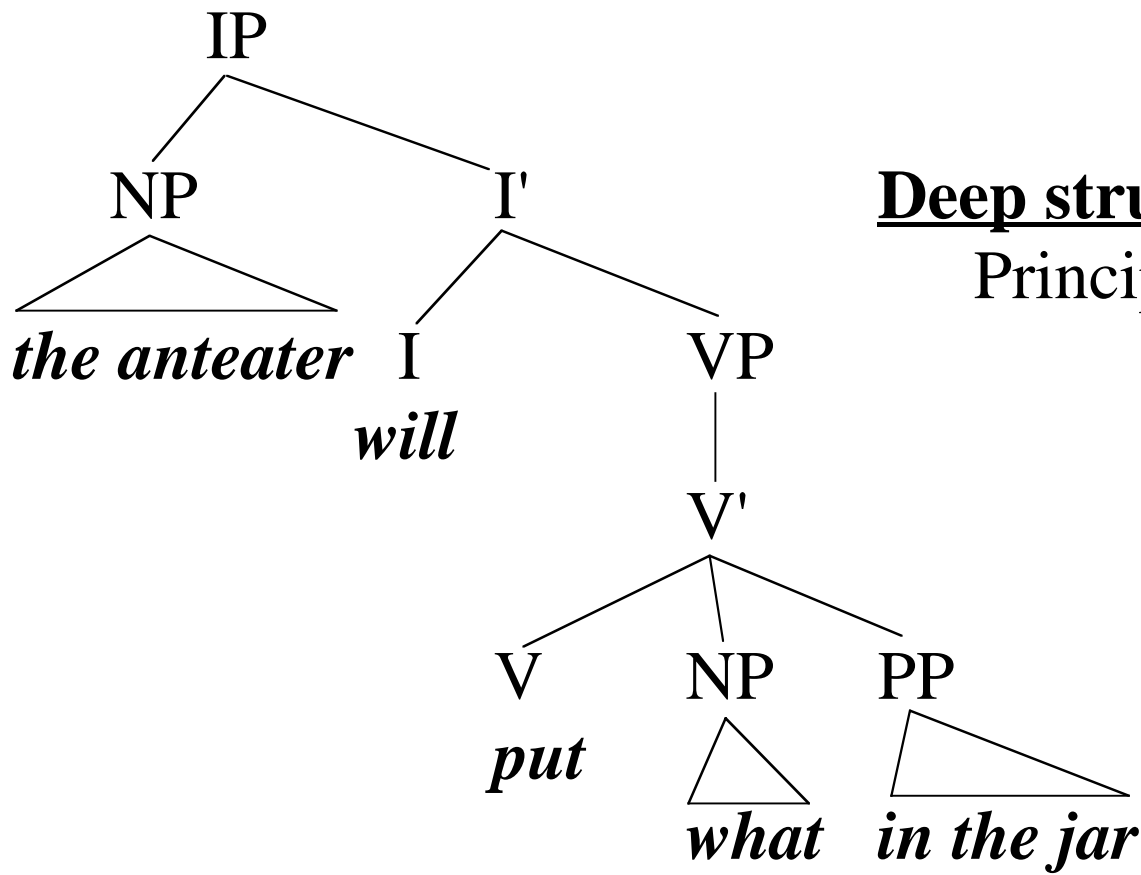
The anteater will put ants in the jar.

\*The anteater will put in the jar.

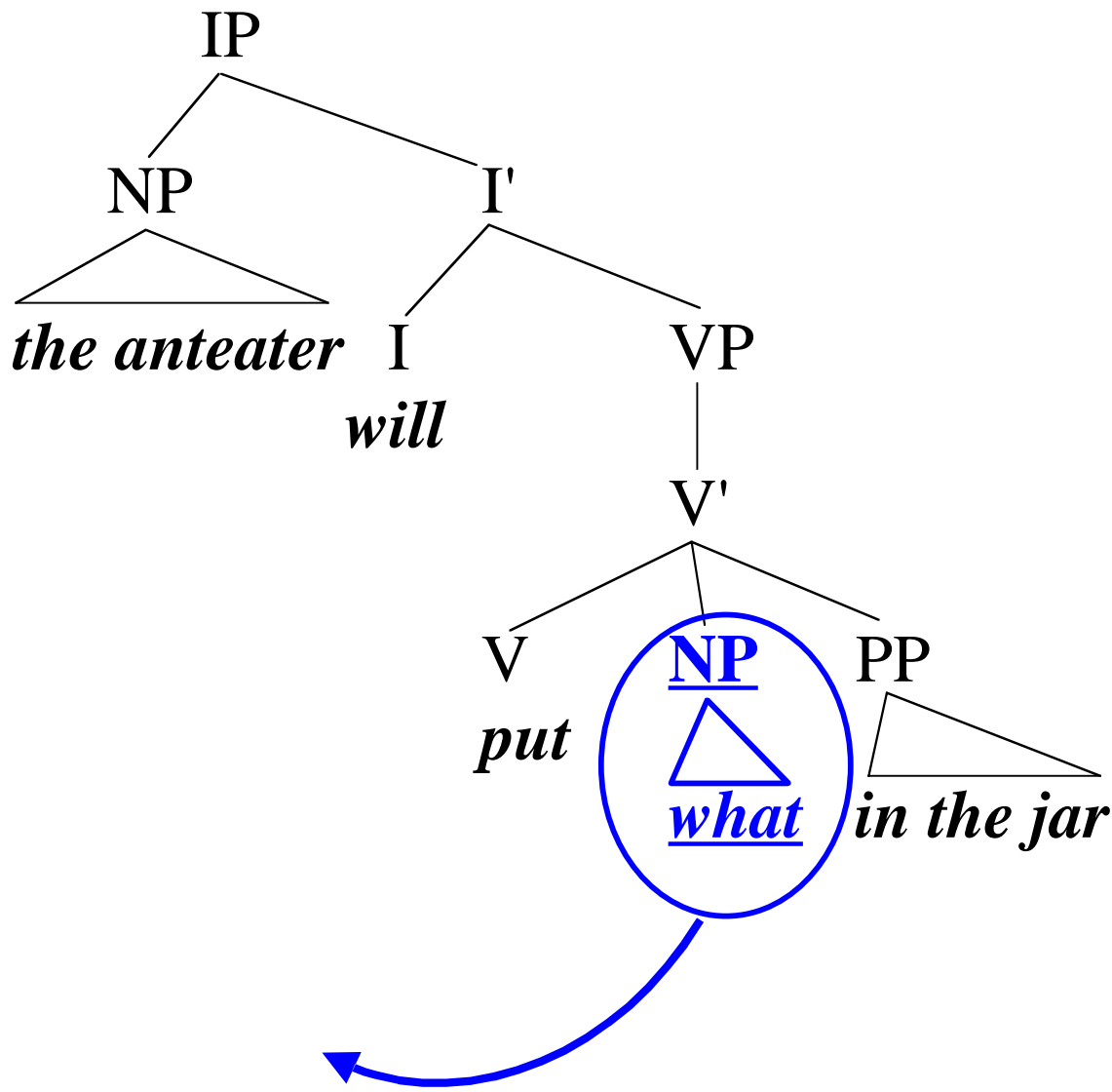
\*The anteater will put ants.

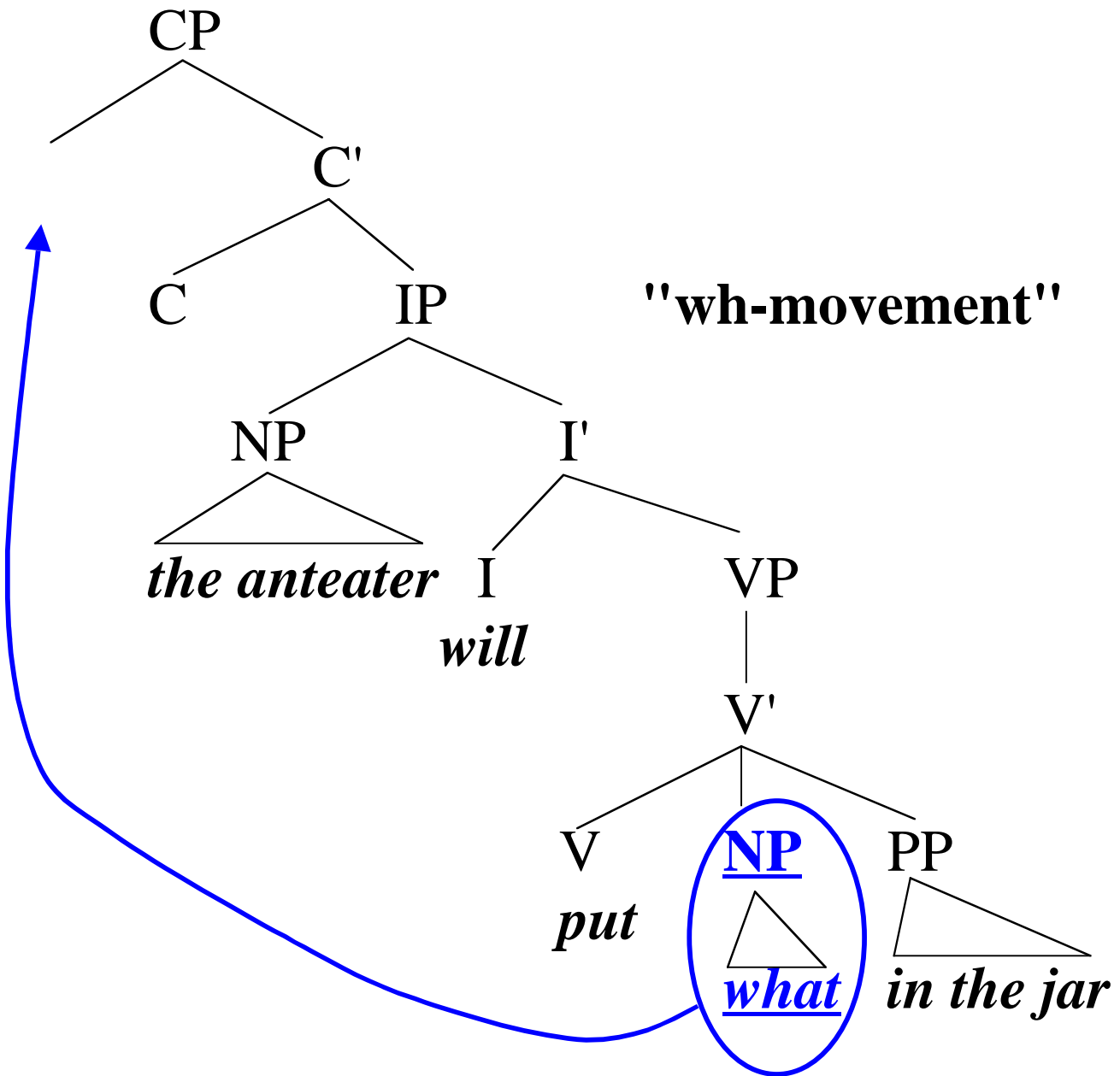
I don't know

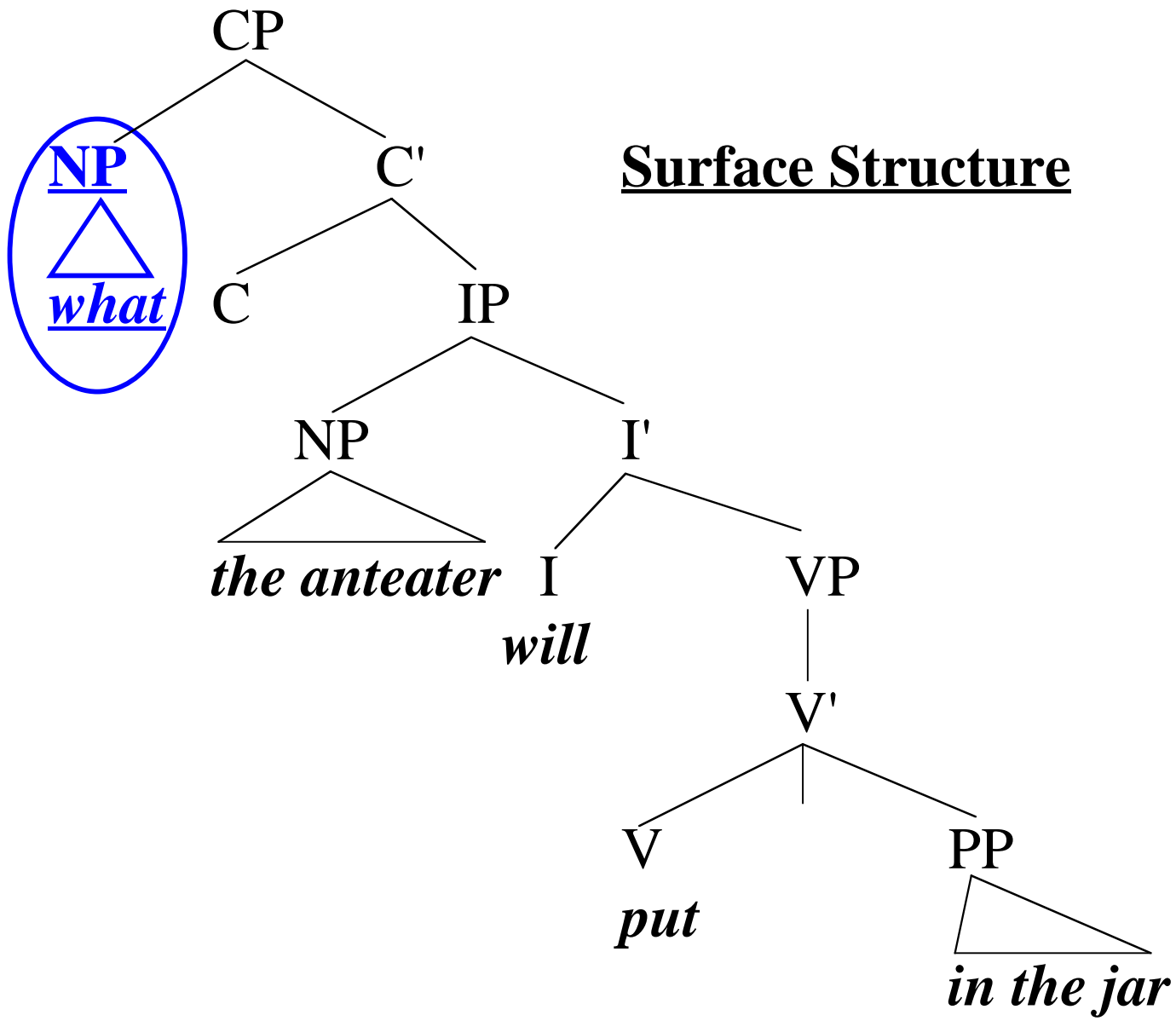
[what the anteater will put in the jar].



**Deep structure:** Projection Principle satisfied.









One reason to think that *what* moves into CP:

I don't know [**whether** he ate the ants]

I think [b**that** he ate the ants]

I don't know [**what** he ate]

\*I don't know [**what that** he ate]


\*I don't know [**what whether** he ate]

One reason to think that *what* moves into CP:

### Irish

Bíonn fios agat i gconaí [go bhuaifidh an píobaire an t-amhrán]  
be know at-you always C will-play the piper the song  
'You always know that the piper will play the song'

Bíonn fios agat i gconaí [caidé a bhuaifidh an píobaire \_\_\_ ]  
be know at-you always what C will-play the piper  
'You always know what the piper will play'



One reason to think that *what* starts out as the complement of the verb: **West Ulster English**

**What all** did you give \_\_\_ to the kids?

**What** did you give \_\_\_ **all** to the kids?

**Who all** did you send \_\_\_ to the shops?

**Who** did you send \_\_\_ **all** to the shops?

**What all** did you do \_\_\_ after school today?

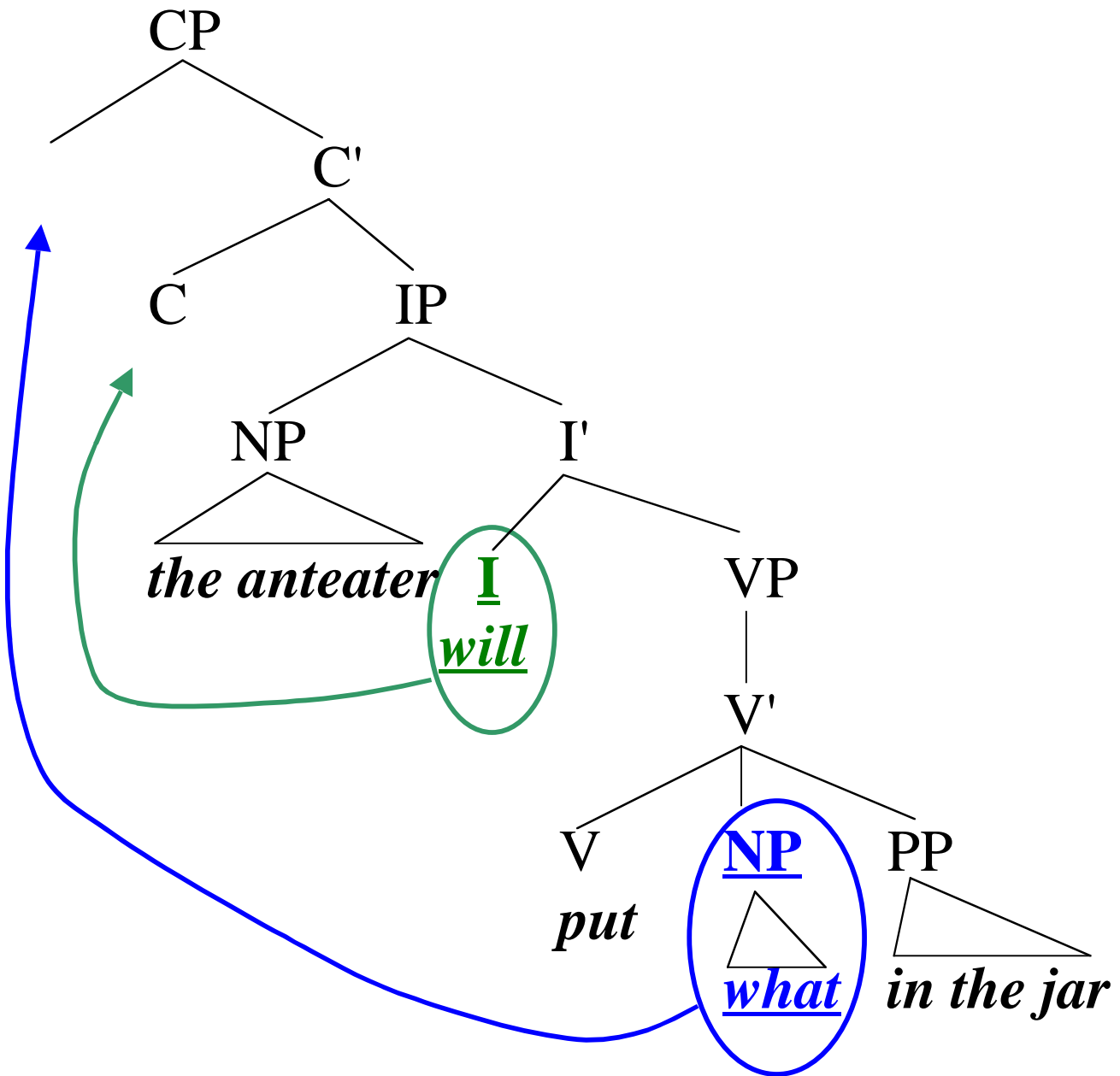
**What** did you do \_\_\_ **all** after school today?

\***What** did you do \_\_\_ after school **all** today?

\***What** did you do \_\_\_ after school today **all**?

# Head-movement

What will the anteater put in the jar?

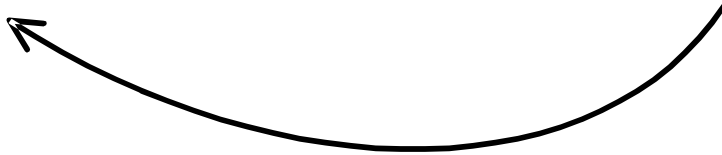


## Deep Structure

the anteater will put what in the jar

## Wh-movement

the anteater will put what in the jar



what the anteater will put \_\_\_\_ in the jar

## Head-movement

what the anteater will put \_\_\_\_ in the jar



## Surface Structure

what will the anteater \_\_\_\_ put \_\_\_\_ in the jar

The anteater will put ants in the jar.

Will the anteater put ants in the jar?

The anteater will put ants in the jar.

Will the anteater put ants in the jar?

The anteater -s put ants in the jar.

→ the anteater puts ants in the jar.

-s the anteater put ants in the jar?

↓  
does

the anteater put ants in the jar?

**"do-support"**



The anteater will put ants in the jar.

Will the anteater put ants in the jar?

The anteater **-s put** ants in the jar.

→ the anteater **puts** ants in the jar.

**-s** the anteater put ants in the jar?

↓  
**does** the anteater put ants in the jar?

The anteater **-d place** ants in the jar.

→ The anteater **placed** ants in the jar.

**-d** the anteater place ants in the jar?

**did** the anteater place ants in the jar?

The anteater **-d place** ants in the jar.  
→ The anteater **placed** ants in the jar.

-d the anteater place ants in the jar?  
did the anteater place ants in the jar?

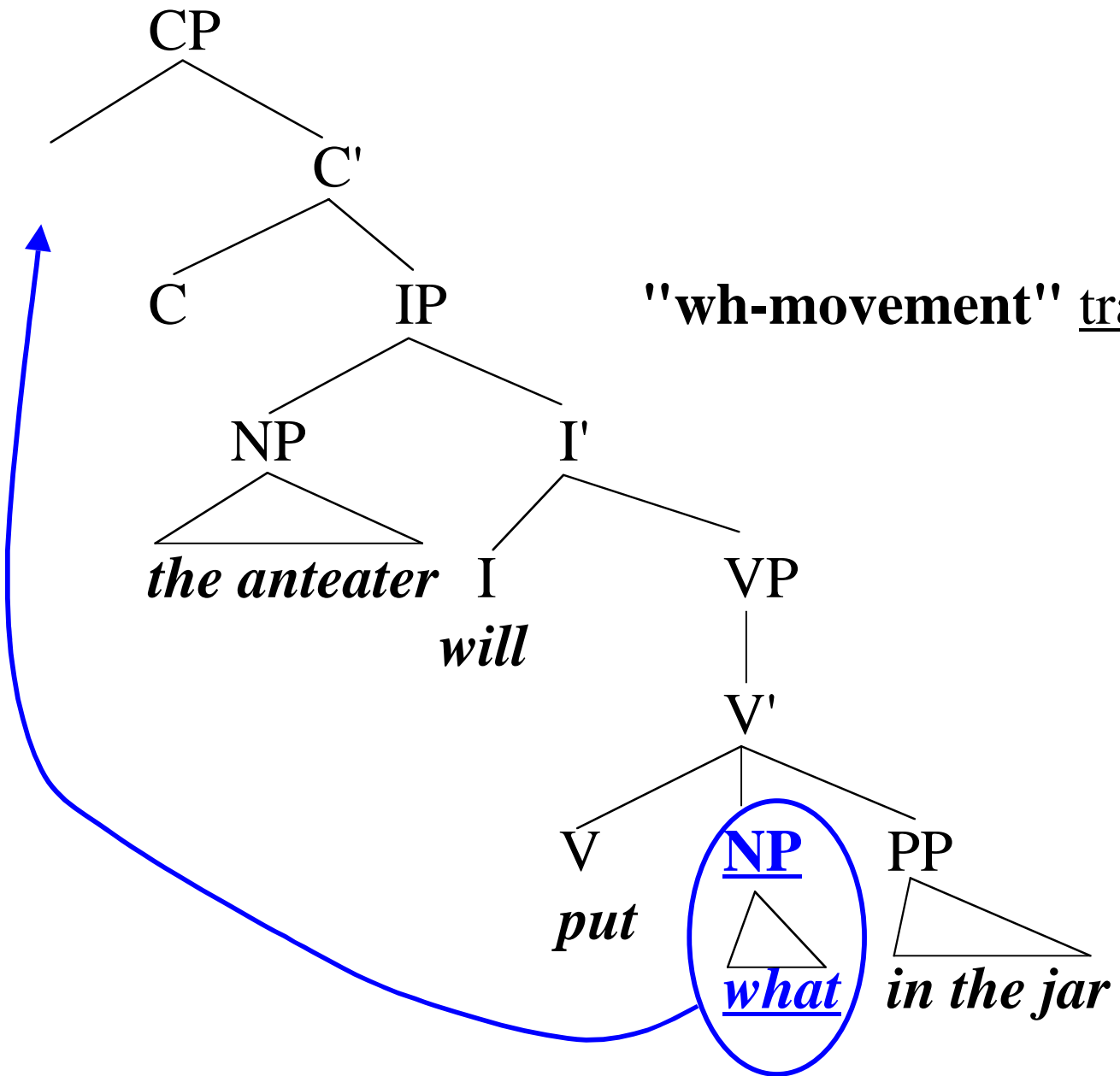
The anteater **-d put** ants in the jar.  
The anteater **put** ants in the jar.

**-d** the anteater put ants in the jar?  
**did** the anteater put ants in the jar?

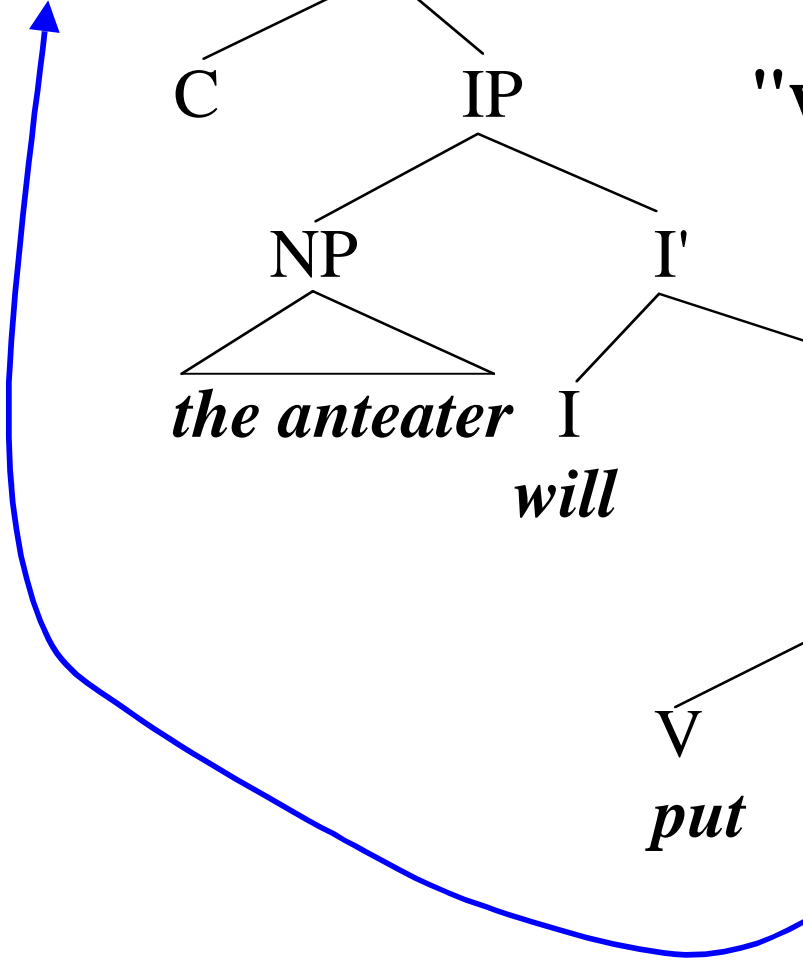
- I adjacent to the V attaches to the verb...  
if it's not adjacent to the V, you get *do*-support.

I don't know...

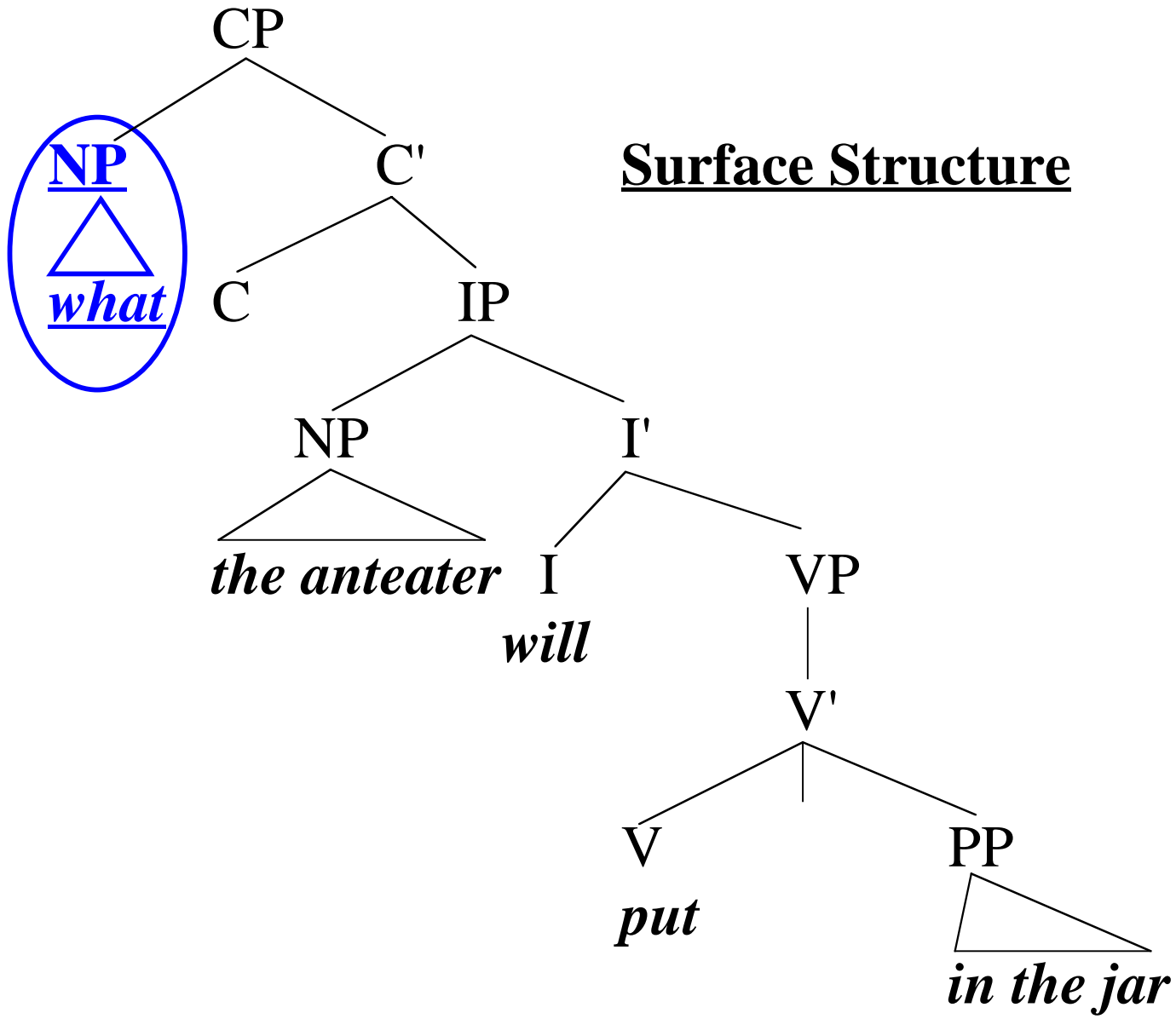
[...what the anteater will put in the jar]



**"wh-movement"** transformation



Surface Structure



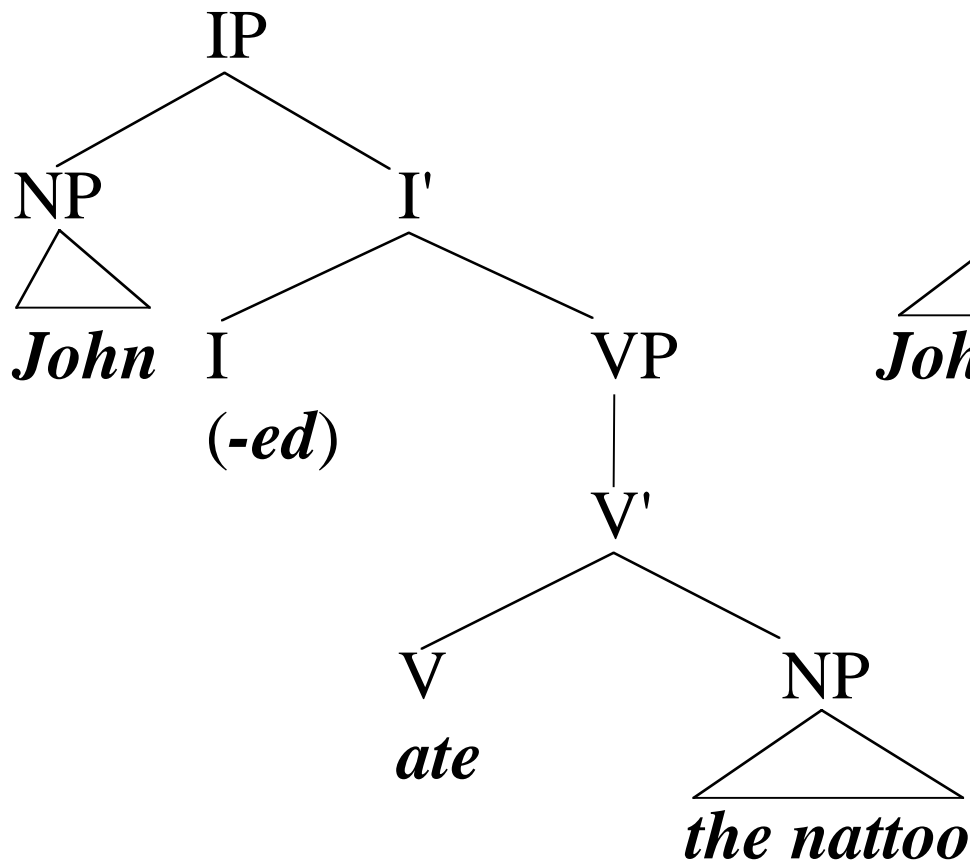
## **Head direction parameter:**

Heads {precede, follow} their complements.

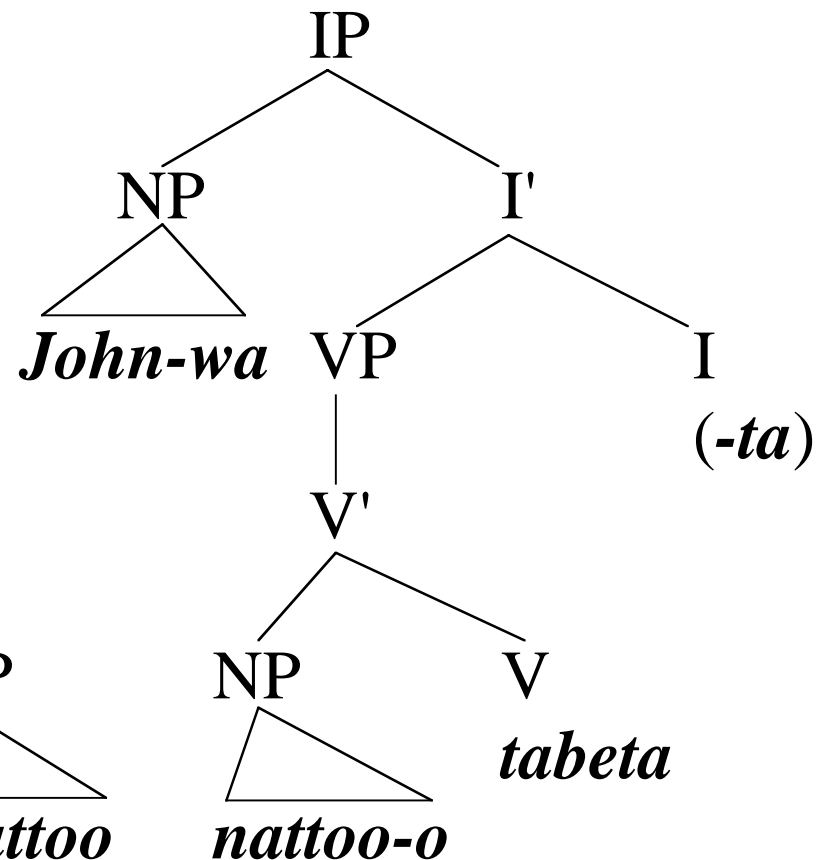
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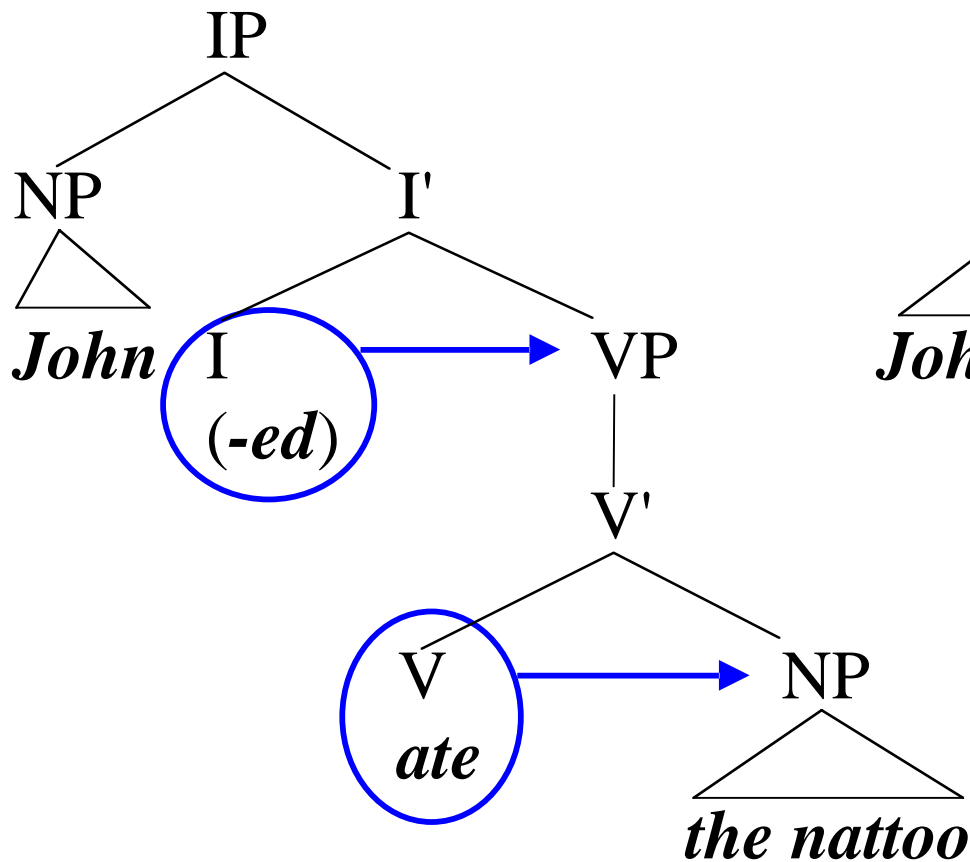
Japanese: SOV



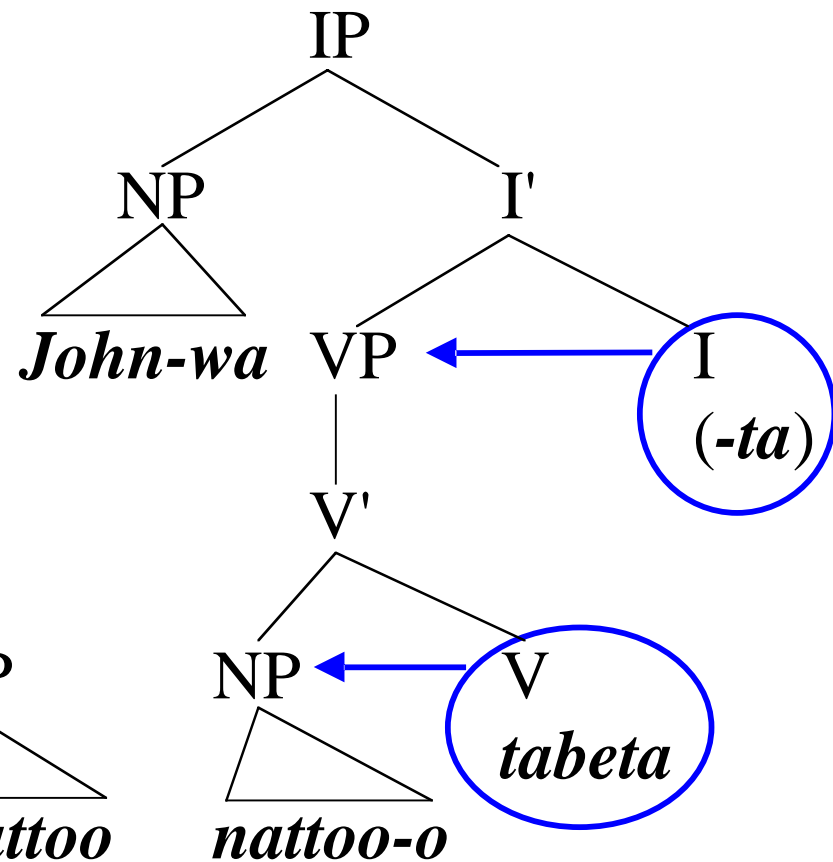
## Head direction parameter:

Heads {precede, follow} their complements.

English: SVO



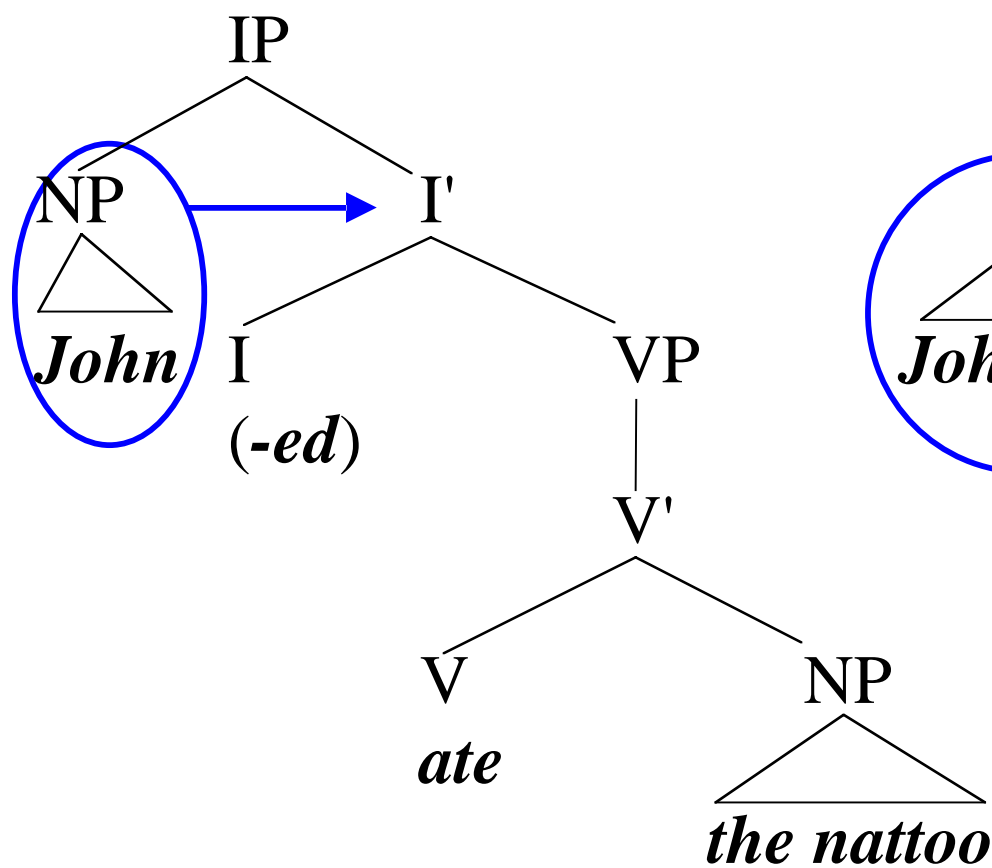
Japanese: SOV



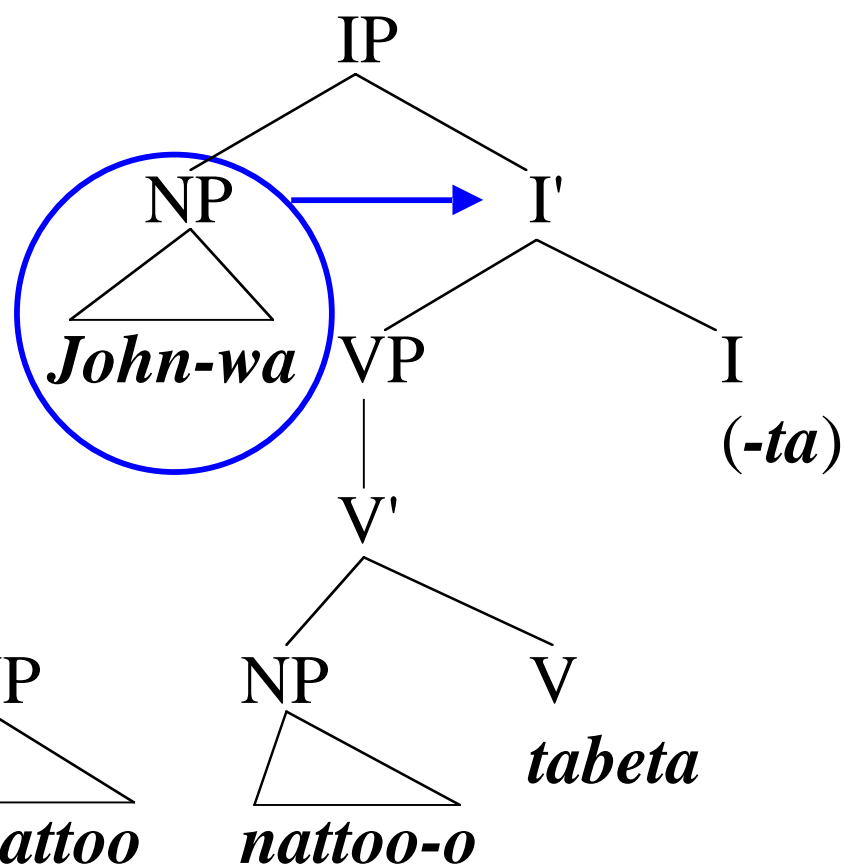


Notice that there is no "specifier direction parameter".

## English: SVO



## Japanese: SOV





Here on Earth, OVS languages are extremely rare (though there are a few apparent examples):

*Hixkaryana*

Kuraha yonyhoryeno biyekomo

*bow made boy*

'The boy made a bow'

--> specifiers are always on the left.

There is a "head direction parameter",  
but no "specifier direction parameter".

This has consequences for acquisition....

## wh-movement again



**What** did you put \_\_\_ on the table?



**Ano** ang inilagay mo \_\_\_ sa lamesa? [*Tagalog*]

what put you on table



**Mihin** panen vaatteeni \_\_\_ ? [*Finnish*]

where I-put my-clothes

## wh-in-situ

Zhangsan mai-le shenmo?

[*Chinese*]

Zhangsan bought what

‘What did Zhangsan buy?’

Suu ki yuu akə?

[*Bafut*]

Suu TNS buy what

‘What did Suu buy?’

Ya um hakiy tuwa?

[*Hopi*]

Q you who-ACC found

‘Who did you find?’

## multiple-wh

What did you give \_\_\_ to whom?





## multiple-wh

What did you give \_\_\_ to whom?

Kakvo na kogo e dal \_\_\_ \_\_\_?  
what to whom he-gave

[*Bulgarian*]

Takhróri úhka nahóta \_\_\_ wa'ehnínu' \_\_\_  
tell-me who what bought  
'Tell me who bought what.'

[*Mohawk*]

## wh-review:

- wh-movement is to the left.
- languages move zero, one, or all wh-phrases.

## wh-review:

- wh-movement is to the left.  
(specifiers are always on the left)
- languages move zero, one, or all wh-phrases.

## wh-review:

- wh-movement is to the left.  
(specifiers are always on the left)
- languages move zero, one, or all  
wh-phrases.  
(language cannot count)

some imaginable but unattested  
languages:

- wh-movement to the right

\_\_\_ bought the mango who?



- movement of up to two wh-phrases

who what \_\_\_ gave \_\_\_ to whom?



# Logical problem of language acquisition

$$f(1)=1$$

$$f(2)=2$$

$$f(3)=3$$

$$f(4)=4$$

$$f(5)=??$$

# Logical problem of language acquisition

$$f(1)=1$$

$$f(2)=2$$


$$f(3)=3$$

$$f(4)=4$$

$$f(5)=\underline{29}$$

$$f(n)=(n-1)(n-2)(n-3)(n-4) + n$$


# acquisition of wh-strategies

  
**Kakvo na kogo** e dal \_\_\_ \_\_\_?  
what to whom he-gave  
'What did he give to whom?'

[*Bulgarian*]



# acquisition of wh-strategies

  
**Kakvo na kogo** e dal \_\_\_ \_\_\_?

[*Bulgarian*]


what to whom he-gave

'What did he give to whom?'

- move all wh-phrases?
- move two wh-phrases?
- move up to three wh-phrases?
- move up to four wh-phrases?

...

# acquisition of wh-strategies

  
**Kakvo na kogo** e dal \_\_\_ \_\_\_?  
what to whom he-gave  
'What did he give to whom?'

[*Bulgarian*]

- **move all wh-phrases**
  - ~~move two wh-phrases?~~
  - ~~move up to three wh-phrases?~~
  - ~~move up to four wh-phrases?~~
- ...

# acquisition of wh-strategies

Zhangsan mai-le shenmo?

[*Chinese*]

Zhangsan bought what

‘What did Zhangsan buy?’

# acquisition of wh-strategies

Zhangsan mai-le shenmo?

[*Chinese*]

Zhangsan bought what

‘What did Zhangsan buy?’

- wh-in-situ?
- move wh-phrase to the right?
- make wh-phrase the third word?

....

# acquisition of wh-strategies

Zhangsan mai-le shenmo?

[*Chinese*]

Zhangsan bought what

‘What did Zhangsan buy?’

- wh-in-situ
- ~~move wh-phrase to the right?~~
- ~~make wh-phrase the third word?~~

....